



EEB'S 10 GREEN TESTS FOR THE SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY

The following ten points outline the goals EEB would like to see the Slovenian presidency achieve during its six month tenure in the first half of 2007.

1. WORK TOWARDS A CLEAN AND SAFE ENERGY FUTURE

- Reach an effort-sharing agreement between Member States that guarantees by 2020 energy production with a minimum of 20% environmentally sound renewable resources.
- As long as environmentally and socially sound production cannot be guaranteed, abandon the 10% biofuels target for 2020.
- Accelerate energy efficiency as an essential element of EU's energy policy as well as product and building policies.
- Carbon Capture and Storage operate only under strict environmental, safety and liability requirements, determined by the EU based on independent studies and tests, and laid down in EU law. Funding for such studies to come from special fees imposed on current fossil fuel users for electricity and large-scale heat production. All subsidies to coal energy in the EU to be phased out without further delay.

2. LEAD ON CLIMATE BY EXAMPLE

- Reach an effort-sharing agreement amongst Member States that ensures 30% domestic greenhouse gas reduction compared with 1990 for the EU, with all Member States accepting a fair share of the common target.
- Agree on an Emission Trading Scheme that gives certainty on emission reductions through a top-down EU-wide cap, sending a clear carbon signal by using full auctioning and clear and stringent limits on the use of external credits.
- Work towards a binding post-Kyoto agreement that ensures that temperature increase will remain below 2 degrees.

3. REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF ROAD TRANSPORT

- Regarding the CO₂ emissions directive for passenger cars:
 - Limit average CO₂/km emissions to 120 g/km and set 80 g/km target for 2020.
 - Reject the integrated approach and inclusion of biofuels, focusing instead on technical means only.

- Refuse differentiation on the basis of the weight of cars, and ensure differentiation means an obligation for high-emitting cars to reduce more, for example by basing it on the car's 'footprint'.
- Include stringent financial sanctions for cars with emissions over 150 g/km.
- Include in the Fuel Quality Directive:
 - Minimum performance standard of 60% GHG-saving for biofuels in comparison to fossil fuel;
 - Clear provisions for life cycle analysis, including direct and indirect land use change and other environmental and social impacts;
 - Sustainability criteria dealing with impacts on water, soil, and biodiversity resources as well as social criteria;
 - Review mechanism to assess impacts that the agreed target will have on sustainability of biofuel production;
 - Scrap RVP waiver for fuels containing bio-ethanol.
 - Call for bringing 10 ppm sulphur content requirement of inland waterway gas-oil forward from 2011 to 2009.
- A EURO VI Directive for lorries and buses with stringent limit values that would require fitting particle filters and de-NOx catalysts.

4. A THOROUGH AND HONEST CAP HEALTH CHECK

- Full involvement of the Environment Council.
- Serious assessment of how much existing instruments such as cross compliance are sufficiently effective in improving environmental quality.
- The start of a political debate about the medium- to long-term objectives for a reformed post-2013 CAP designed to meet the global challenges of climate change, biodiversity and water management.
- A critical reflection on the impacts of biofuel support measures on the protection of key resources such as soil, water and biodiversity within agricultural production systems.

5. SECURE GM-FREE FARMING AND CONSUMER CHOICE IN EUROPE

Prevent genetic contamination of conventional and organic farming through:

- strict purity standards for GM contamination of seeds, legally and technically established at the reliable and practically feasible detection limit of 0.1%;
- uniform and binding Community rules giving Member States the right to set up GM-free zones at local, regional, or even national levels;
- a strictly precautionary approach to any applications for approval and re-approval of GMO varieties for cultivation.

6. A COHERENT FRAMEWORK FOR INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION CONTROL

- Keep the recast of the IPPC Directive water tight: stick with the scope of Commission's proposals for change.

- Maintain existing Emission Limit Values in sectoral directives as a critical safety net and ensure their tightening to reflect emission levels achievable through application of Best Available Techniques(BAT).
- Ensure transparency in implementation by making permit applications and permits permanently available to public on national websites.
- Make using the BAT Reference Documents (BREFs) by local competent authorities obligatory to the permitting process.
- Establish BREF review as a trigger for permit review in order to secure continuous improvement in environmental performance;
- Reject an emissions trading scheme for the local pollutants sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. Ensure full implementation of the existing Directive and support mechanisms for exchange of best practice between permitting authorities.

7. IMPROVE WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE TO BOOST PREVENTION AND RECYCLING

Refrain from pressure on European Parliament to give up key elements of its first reading position, in particular its demands for:

- overall EU targets for prevention and minimum recycling rates, including an overall EU objective of stabilisation of waste generation by 2012 and minimum recycling rates (50% by 2020 for municipal solid waste and 70% for industrial, commercial and construction and demolition waste);
- a separate Directive to ensure the recycling of biowaste;
- regeneration of waste oils;
- keeping the binding five-step waste hierarchy;
- not reclassifying municipal waste incinerators as energy recovery.

8. KEEP WORKING ON THE SOIL FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

After the failure at the December Environment Council, find a compromise between Member States that will include:

- a common approach to identifying contaminated sites and drawing up inventories;
- clarification that in case of possible overlap between existing legislation and the Soil Directive, the most stringent provisions will apply;
- Clear legal principles which establish a hierarchy of measures giving preference to prevention over clean-up;
- a mandatory chemical analysis as part of the soil status report.

9. BIODIVERSITY COP9 AND COUNTDOWN 2010: SHOW EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP BY SETTING GOOD EXAMPLE

- Showcase protection regimes as established under Birds and Habitats Directive as effective tools for nature conservation and key drivers for sustainable development.
- Introduce an EU proposal on legally binding international regime of strict liability and redress for environmental damage arising from transboundary movement of GMOs/LMOs (*living modified organisms*).

- Push for a robust certification system to ensure sustainability of production, transport and consumption of biofuels in the EU as well as worldwide.
- Take bold initiative to intensify and broaden biodiversity protection as part of a climate adaptation strategy.
- Initiate investigation on practical measures taken by Member States implementing the objective of halting biodiversity loss by 2010.
- Continue the work on the voluntary Initiative Business and Biodiversity, and set clear guidelines for the business sector.

10. IMPROVING ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

- Adopt an improved version of the proposed Directive on protecting the environment through criminal law, pending the entry into force of the Reform Treaty, which would allow EU to set standards for penalties.
- Hold a broad debate on improving implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law.
- Make proposals for a substantial increase in the Commission's capacity to deliver on its enforcement obligations and the capacity of national and local government to enforce EU environmental law, including through the EU cohesion policy.
- Increase public involvement, through open and transparent infringement procedures, and access to justice as required by the Aarhus Convention. Relaunch negotiations on the Access to Justice Directive, along the lines of the Commission proposal and EP amendments.