

agenda



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2/09

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Copenhagen (COP 15): a new wall instead of a new agreement

Twenty years after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, a new wall was erected in Copenhagen in 2009 – the wall of the North, protecting its high standards, investments and comforts, against the South, which seeks climate justice, reparations, and repayment of the climate debt.

It would not be wise to accept an impression that during the two weeks of the climate conference in Copenhagen in mid-December absolutely nothing happened; that the effort was in vain. Of course, for some, it was just a smoke screen and a bit of a ‘green wash’, to cover up the ever more lucrative ‘business as usual’. For others, though, it was an attempt to use all the means available to slow down the avalanche that had started to roll downhill. There is, of course, no substance in the new agreement, the so-called Copenhagen Accord (which it is not); it is merely a hastily summarised tally of intense, though not really constructive negotiations in the Bella Centre. We may even say that it was a lot of money and energy for being stuck in one place. And just as one could suppose, there was no just or legally binding framework that could draw the new architecture of the global climate regime. On top of that, it is indicative that this wall and the clear lack of democratic legitimacy have already started to be defended by a repressive police apparatus and violence that degrades human dignity.

Nevertheless, something else did happen. Twenty years after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, a new wall was erected in Copenhagen in 2009. Symbolically speaking, of course. It is the wall of the North, protecting its high standards, investments and comforts, against the South, which seeks climate justice, reparations, and repayment of the climate debt that has grown over the decades of disproportionate industrial and economic development on the planet. There is entrenchment among the developed countries, which do not want to take up leadership – which is, in itself, no accident – due to, among other things, the lack of confidence, let alone solidarity. Conflicts that were latent until recently are now deepening and turning into hot issues of the global political arena, putting the focus of the debate on the issue of fairness and joint and proportionate burden sharing. However, this also opens another possible line of conflict – the one related to accountability to the coming generations and the

world they stand to inherit – particularly if we confront this with the ‘business as usual’, which will, even after Copenhagen, try to profit from the endless growth paradigm. That is why all eyes are now on Mexico.

WHAT IS THE CLIMATE DISCOURSE USED FOR

We cannot but think that the climate discourse itself is the locus of instrumentalisation of different agendas. Let us start with the least responsible ones. First, the developing countries and partly the emerging markets, countries like China, India, Mexico and Brazil, accept and utilise – and of course emphasize – their own victimisation in order to increase the claims over the possible climate debt, in any way possible. No matter how much we advocate climate justice and sustainable natural resource management, we must not forget that scientific evidence and relevant information on man’s active contribution to global warming started to grow intensively only in the past ten years, so that - however morally founded – it is unrealistic to seek reparations for half a century of greenhouse gas emissions, which clearly impacted the fundamental climate changes in the South and is now impacting everyday lives and fundamental human rights (the right to life, food, water...).

The second element relates primarily to this latter category – countries with fast growing economies. In this case, the climate discourse has been instrumentalised so as to slow down those economies and to weaken the competition against the ever weaker, more expensive and less competitive European and American economies.

And the third element, which simply has to be relevant to all of us, is the clear lack of substance that opens up the space for different interpretations by different self-proclaimed arbiters. Such circumstances favour the theatrical exaggeration of ordinary agreements, which are not binding (such as the alleged agreement between the US, India, China and South Africa) but do open up the space for superficial, cosmetic change – and this is the risk from the Green New Deal. Big business is certainly interested in the issue of carbon trading in greenhouse gas emission and different (market) mechanisms. The failed neo-liberal economy sees the climate crisis as its salvation, the source of new deals and new investments. At that, the entire issue of climate change is reduced to financing adaptation and simulating solidarity with developing countries.

There has been a shift towards greater repression and less democratic legitimacy of the process itself, and a return towards authoritarianism. However, the ones on the other side – joined together in a global civil society – may channel and articulate political pressure differently in the next year

BUSINESS AS USUAL, BUT WITH LESS DEMOCRACY?

What seems to continue to happen even after Copenhagen, and as it seems, it will continue to happen for at least a year, is that the developed countries will continue to act not only as emission traders (meaning a continuing privatisation of the atmosphere as one of the remaining resources), but also as advocates or exporters of different clean technologies and knowledge, which they will – again – draw benefits from. The major transformati-

on towards zero-growth economy and fair climate solutions (for example, no mono-culture farms and no new nuclear plants) has thus been pushed aside, and that is the true risk for further implementation of the Green New Deal.

Therefore, there has been no shift towards a legally binding document that could introduce ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (of at least 40% for the European Union), but there has been a shift towards greater repression and less democratic legitimacy of the process itself. In that sense, it is clear that the climate justice debate creates considerable distortions manifested in the process of returning to authoritarianism. This collision also means that those on the other side - joined together in a global civil society – may channel and articulate differently the necessary type and intensity of political pressure in the next year.

As for the point of view of countries of our region, the outlooks are different. In any case, countries in the region are responsible for minimal greenhouse gas emissions, although they are on different sides and with different obligations, at least when Kyoto is concerned. And Copenhagen brings no change here. However, the very fact that 2012, the year when Kyoto expires, is coming fast and we have no regulation of obligations, does indeed send a negative signal to countries in the region. What the governments of all the countries in this region must initiate is certainly the issue of adaptation to climate change in our respective countries. And until then, perhaps the wisest thing to do is to stick to Kyoto, however little it offers, and revise all the public policies that extend our dependence on fossil fuels and contribute directly to further climate change. Over the next few decades, the climate change will impact both directly and substantively our attitude towards our resources, which – along with different vulnerable sectors – opens up even more room for preparation. Fortunately, however imperfect it may be, Kyoto still offers an important guideline for further action, although it can certainly not bring us into the world of warming of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Vedran Horvat



Green New Deal – a turn towards ‘green’ economy?

Igor Matutinović*

Despite the growing concern that possibly irreversible climate changes may lead to huge problems in food production, as well as mass migrations and major economic damages, there seems to be no clear and decisive political readiness of the developed Western countries and China to tackle this problem immediately.

Over the past year, the international media has been discussing whether the global economic crisis – the greatest in the post-war period – has opened up the possibility for a change in the behaviour of the capitalist system, a change that may try to reconcile economic and ecological aims – the desire of the population to enjoy a constant growth of economic wellbeing and the Earth’s geo-physical restrictions. At that, the most frequently cited vision is that of the New Green Deal by Barrack Obama, promising to improve economic growth and employment through investments in renewable energy sources, hybrid cars and energy efficiency. With a budget¹ of almost 150 billion US dollars, the New Green Deal should trigger not only the economic recovery of the US, but also the process of reducing energy dependency on imported oil, and a reduction of carbon dioxide emission, thus contributing most concretely to the forthcoming Copenhagen agreement on climate change.

Although the New Green Deal sounds attractive politically, it remains unclear as to how much it can really contribute to the economic recovery of the US and how much it can guide both production and spending to an energetically and ecologically sustainable path. First, its financial lever is very modest. Compared with the funds spent to repair the financial system – more than two thousand billion dollars – the stimulation package of 35 billion dollars, which the US Administration has thus far earmarked for ‘clean and efficient American energy’, is unlikely to cause a turn towards the so-called ‘carbon-free’ economy.² Research

by the World Resource Institute shows that for every billion dollars invested in the Government’s Green Recovery Programme, 30,000 new jobs can be opened.³ There are currently 15.7 million unemployed in the US, 8.2 of whom lost their jobs after the onset of recession.⁴ A simple calculation shows that if we want just one third of those 8.2 million (i.e. 2.6 million) to find work in the ‘green’ economy, the Government needs to spend 86.6 billion US dollars from its budget. If we want to insist on the impact of the newly created ‘green’ jobs on the total level of employment, we must take into account an assessment by Andrew Dorchak of the University of Illinois, who claims that the number of the new ‘green’ jobs in the US will be far lower than the number of jobs lost in the conventional processing industry.⁵

Still, if we look at the anticipated effects of the green stimulation package on production levels in the area of alternative energy sources, we must first consider that before any net increase, there must first be a compensation of recession losses. Thus, for example, wind farms and solar panels have seen a notable *drop in new project investments* (between 20 and 50%) across the US, and the same applies to sales of ready-to-use devices.⁶ A similar situation has been noted in Europe. For example, in the German ‘Solar Valley’, solar panel production dropped due to a shorter working week. Some energy companies, such as Iberdrola, have decreased their investments in renewable energy sources.⁷ All in all, global renewable energy investments have dropped by 13 billion US dollars in the first quarter of 2009, which is a drop of 53% compared with the same period last year. Key reasons cited for this are a drop in prices of conventional energy sources (oil) and a drop in demand in general.⁸

This data indicates that, however welcome as a pioneering project, at least for the time being the New Green Deal does not have the strength to instigate a major turn in employment and production.

Efforts to use market mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions do not fare better in a recession environment. Thus, the EU carbon credit trade scheme was on the verge of collapsing in 2008: the price of permits dropped by 50% - from 38 € to 15 € – and this level is no longer stimulating for companies to invest in emission reductions.⁹ Despite the growing concern that possibly irreversible climate changes may lead to huge problems in food production, as well as mass migrations and major economic damages, there seems to be no clear and decisive political readiness of the developed Western countries and China to tackle this problem immediately. In the absence of clear poli-

would be spent directly on investments and incentives for the industry, and an additional amount of 20 bn US\$ would go towards tax incentives (‘A Global Green Deal’. *The Nation*. 25 February 2009. <http://www.thenation.com/doc/20090316/hertsgaard>). However, an examination of the official announcement on how the stimulation package is to be spent, issued by the US Senate on 13 February 2009, shows an amount of 35 bn US\$, with an additional amount of 18.8 bn US\$ for protection of water and the environment (The American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill). <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/PressSummary02-13-09.pdf>.

3 “Testimony of Mr. Rob Bradley, Director, International Climate Policy Initiative”. World Resources Institute, 10 March 2009. http://pdf.wri.org/rob_bradley_testimony_helsinki_commission.pdf

4 Employment Situation Summary. United States Department of Labor, 6 November 2009. <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empstat.nr0.htm>

5 *Financial Times*, “Feeling the heat”. 2 June 2009.

6 *The New York Times*, “Dark Days for Green Energy”. 4 February 2009.

7 *Poslovni dnevnik*, “Bankari i trgovci okreću leđa struji”. 27/28 March 2009.

8 *Financial Times*, “Feeling the heat”. 2 June 2009.

9 *Financial Times*, “Carbon prices hit by economic crisis”. 7 December 2008. As on 20 November 2009, the price was 13.07 € per ton.

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1 This is a budget amount mentioned during the presidential campaign, “Obama’s ‘Green Deal’ Will Need to Pay for Itself”. Bloomberg, 10 November 2008. <http://www.bloomberg.com>

2 The US Administration approved a stimulation package for economic recovery amounting to 789 bn US\$. Of that amount, according to media reports, 71 bn US\$

tical will to adopt binding rules of the game at an institutional level, the industry is not willing to act autonomously and blindly. According to a recent statement by the chairperson of the *Combat Climate Change* group, which includes British Petroleum, Unilever, General Electric and some sixty major multinationals, the industry will opt for the necessary investments only when a binding agreement has been reached at the global political level and when relevant legislation has been adopted.¹⁰

However, in order to save jobs, governments of leading economies in the world did not hesitate to help traditional greenhouse gas emitters such as the auto industry, under the guise of helping ‘combat’ climate change. Thus, countries such as Germany, Italy, France and China, launched campaigns to motivate their consumers to replace their old cars with new ones, thus boosting their exhausted auto industry. For example, Germany offered an incentive of 2,500 Euros to those who decide to replace their cars older than nine with new ones, and it very quickly spent 5 billion Euros of its budget funds for this purpose. Beneath the illusion that this leads to positive effects for the environment and for energy consumption (in principle, new cars should have lower CO₂ and lower fuel consumption) there is, in fact, an attempt to save jobs in the auto industry and to boost spending, thus boosting economic growth. The effect of this political move borders with the absurd: as well noted by a *Financial Times* editorial, governments should not promote elimination of older products just to increase the demand for new ones,¹¹ and do so, one should add, within the same, oil-based technology. From the point of view of consumption of natural resources and energy, this move is not only conceptually pointless, but it also creates net damages, as it accelerates the flow of materials and energy, to cover needs of the population that have already been satisfied (i.e. personal transport).

A reduction of oil prices in the world market was received with a sense of relief, just as the US and EU citizens started to change their driving habits and car selection preferences in favour of public transport. Again, the state failed to use its fiscal intervention to stabilise the fuel price at the level that can stimulate producers and consumers to change their course.

THE PRICE OF ENERGY – A NECESSARY ELEMENT OF THE POLICY OF CHANGE

However uncertain, it is not totally impossible to start the process of creating a synergy between environmental requirements and economic interests. For such a synergy to be created certain preconditions need to be created, that is, certain well-established biases need to be eliminated. First of all, it should be clear that there can be no stabilisation or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, no reduction of fossil fuel dependence, no stabilisation of world energy consumption, no increase in the share of renewable energy sources in total consumption, in an environment of

low prices of energy, particularly oil. Decision makers are far from aware of these facts. Let us look at the example of years of political pressure by the European Commission on EU member states to sever and privatise their respective power sectors: greater competition in the power market in order to reduce consumer prices was presented as the key motivation for these important ownership and institutional changes. Although it is clear that lower prices cannot promote investments into alternative energy sources or energy efficiency in production, insistence on this argument continued until recently, apparently under the guise of yet another folly of modern times – neo-liberal ideology.¹²

Reduction of oil prices in the world market was received with a similar sense of relief, just as the US and EU citizens started to change their driving habits and car selection preferences in favour of public transport. According to the German Institute of Economic Research (DIW), considerable reductions in energy prices led to elimination of the financial burden of German economy and households, by as much as 25 to 30 billion Euros.¹³ The US saw the fastest drop in retail prices of petrol in history:¹⁴ after peaking at 4.11 \$ in July 2008, the price fell to as little as 2.99 \$ per gallon (20 October 2008) – as much as 28% in just four months. This sudden and significant drop in energy prices sent confusing signals both to car buyers and car manufacturers. Again, the state failed to use its fiscal intervention to stabilise the fuel price at the level that can stimulate producers and consumers to change their course. Namely, it is estimated that the oil price should be at the level of 150 \$ per barrel, in order to instigate and maintain radical changes in both consumption and production.¹⁵ In times of recession, this is too much of a challenge for the state, which is expected to restore economic growth as quickly as possible.

A CHANGING OUTLOOK

Although the Green New Deal is an example of positive changes, there can be no conclusion yet that the state will not use the recession as an opportunity to launch systemic adaption of economy to restrictions arising from the ecosystem and non-renewable energy sources, as well as the challenges of possible climate changes. Thorough changes need also a radical change in the current outlook, as well as abandonment of the paradigm of unlimited material growth of economies, particularly the most developed ones.¹⁶ A different outlook, which should, among other things, reflect the intrinsic values of biodiversity, could also open up the space for the necessary institutional changes, which could, in turn, change the current production and consumption methods. Within the context of a new institutional framework and high fossil fuel prices, the market may, acting in synergy with government interventions, lead to the necessary turn from the currently unsustainable economy towards a new, ‘green’ one.

10 “Business coalition calls for CO₂ treaty”. *Financial Times*, 22 November 2009.

11 *Financial Times*, “Crushing problems”. 14 April 2009. For example, had the money been spent for incentives to buy the new Tesla car, fully power-operated, and with no condition of scrapping old cars, the incentive would have made some sense.

12 Matutinović, I. and Stanić, Z. 2002. “Privatizacija elektroenergetskog sustava u Hrvatskoj – razvojni iskorak ili zabluda neo-liberalne ideologije?” [Privatisation of Power Systems in Croatia – Development or Folly of Neo-liberal Ideology]. *Ekonomski pregled* (53), vol. 11-12, pp. 1030-1047.

13 GfK Group Press Release: Consumption crisis? 2 February 2009.

14 Reuters. “U.S. gasoline price marks biggest drop ever: survey”. 12 October 2008.

15 Cambridge Energy Research Associates, 2006. *Why the “Peak Oil” Theory Falls Down - Myths, Legends, and the Future of Oil Resources*. CERA.

16 Matutinović, I. 2007. “An Institutional Approach to Sustainability: a Historical Interplay of Worldviews, Institutions and Technology”. *Journal of Economic Issues*, Vol. XLI, No.4, pp. 1109-1137.

what preceded the Copenhagen conference

greenhouse emissions and political games

Omer Rak*

In global terms, this is a huge step for the future of mankind, perhaps even grater than the one taken by Neil Armstrong when he hopped across the sands of the Earth's satellite. The global warming also raises the issue of our survival, or our disappearance, which is in itself a dramatic consideration, as fatefully articulated in a single 'but' by a famous Danish prince on the walls of his fortress in Ellsinore

In global terms, this is a huge step for the future of mankind, perhaps even greater than the one taken by Neil Armstrong when he hopped across the sands of the Earth's satellite. While we await the uncertain outcome in the Danish capital, perhaps it would be good to 'revise' what we already know in relation to several notorious facts about global warming. It also raises the issue of our survival, or our disappearance, which is in itself a dramatic consideration, as fatefully articulated in a single 'but' by a famous Danish prince on the walls of his fortress in Ellsinore, and repeated several centuries later with a double alternative 'either-or', though mutually exclusive, by a Dane from Copenhagen, the first existential thinker. And then, the conference in Copenhagen, December 2009: either we agree, or...

Agreements started at the 1992 conference in Rio de Janeiro, which marked the onset of the process of restricting carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, in order to mitigate global warming and its consequences on the planet's climate. The Copenhagen agreement should come into force in 2012, to succeed the Kyoto Protocol (1997) which is about to expire. Although Bill Clinton, the then US President and the leader of the two largest global polluters, along with China, did sign the Protocol, the US never ratified it. The former US President, George W. Bush, defended this by stating that signing this document would mean a crash for their economy, but also by citing the fact that countries he referred to as 'the major polluters', such as China and India, were not included in the agreement to reduce dangerous emissions.

THE SURVIVAL NEEDS, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS

In any case, the US Senate was against it from the very beginning. On one hand, this was an infantile caprice of unilateral power over the rest of the 'tame' world which signed and ratified it, and on the other, this development was the greatest weakness of the first global regime to control greenhouse gas emissions, which the Protocol did establish. Thus, the conduct of the US gave the well-meaning activist across the world a shot of defeatism straight into the heart. Doubts as to the sincerity of major world players-polluters remain alive even today, at the time of Copenhagen, and many are already sceptical about Obama's 17 percent and his anticipated call to all to accept this legally binding international agreement, which should be completed between June and December 2010. Learning from earlier bad experiences, i.e. the hypocrisy of the signatories and the non-signatories of the Protocol, the green activists stick to Laocoon's ancient statement: 'Beware of Greeks even bearing gifts'. And with good reason, we might add.

The level of carbon dioxide prior to the industrial revolution was approximately 280 ppm ('parts per million'). It now amounts to 386 ppm and it keeps growing by 2-3 ppm each year. Adding to that other types of greenhouse gasses, such as methane, the total level contained in the atmosphere, also referred to as carbon dioxide equivalent, approaches 440 ppm.

Despite the fact that natural factors such as sun phases and strong volcanic eruptions have warmed and cooled our planet in the past, their effects are insufficient to explain the accelerated warming we feel today. Instead, the explanation comes, first and foremost, from the intensified greenhouse effect, caused by high concentration of gasses which do not allow heat to penetrate the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is the main man-made greenhouse gas, a product of the process of burning of fossil fuels – oil, natural gas and coal.

Climate experts are convinced that the world must stop the growth of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible. In order to keep the warming at an average temperature of less than two degrees Celsius, emissions should be reduced by some 25 to 40 percent compared with 1990 levels, and reductions should continue to 80 or even 95 percent by the year 2050. Most of the offers presented thus far are significantly lower than the set values.

Highly industrialised countries such as the US, the UK, Japan and several others, emit the highest levels of carbon per capita and are thus the most responsible. Restricting the exceptionally high increase of emissions by emerging economies such as Indian or Chinese means also hindering their development. Despite such emissions, if examining the per capital level, the situation is not that alarming. More so because, for example, even today some 400 million Indians continue to live with no electricity. That is why China and India insist on continuing the same pollution level for some time to come, in order to improve the living conditions of their population.

After the Chinese decision to lower the greenhouse gas emissions had been published, it was explained that this reduction would come from better utilisation of research and development, cleaner coal-based technologies, nuclear energy and a better transport system. Tax and other legislation will be regulated in such a way so as to support and promote energy efficiency. The proverbial Chinese pragmatics thus wants to achieve two aims: the first is a drastic increase of energy efficiency, using the 'smart' way, and the other is related to developing renewable energy sources, undoubtedly contributing to the aim of lowering Chinese dependency on coal. However, just like anywhere

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else, green political intentions are one thing, and the actual implementation at local level is quite another.

Good news travels fast, as confirmed by the Indian Minister for the Environment, Jairam Ramesh, who was moved by the Chinese readiness to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to say that 'China has now sent a wake-up call to India', so that they should now 'think about a strategy on climate change, in order to avoid being isolated at the Copenhagen climate conference'.

CLIMATE CHANGE AGAINST LONG-TERM ECONOMIC INTEREST

Climate change is not only about climate – far from that. Ignoring its importance will gradually erode economic growth, according to the *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, a voluminous 2006 report prepared by the economist Nicholas Stern for the UK Government. The Report discusses the effects of global warming on world economy. According to opinions presented in the Report, our actions in the next few decades could become the principal reason for distorted economic and social activities later in this century as well as the next one, of intensity similar to that linked with major wars and economic depression in the first half of the 20th century. This sounds discomfoting, but facts indicate that such changes may become near impossible to alter. Therefore, serious work on climate change also means serious work on a long-term growth strategy and in such a way that those activities do not damage the growth ambitions of either the rich or the poor. The sooner this starts, the less will it cost.

Did the Stern Review motivate the British PM Gordon Brown as he spoke at the recent conference preparation meetings in the Danish capital, and said that there could be no agreement in Copenhagen until the issue of financing has been resolved? He believes that financial issues allow the poor countries to become part of the 'climate initiative', since only financial assistance allows them to introduce major changes in energy transfers required to reduce coal needs. Along with other EU leaders, Brown announced the establishment of a fund by 2020, valued at 100 billion Euros because, according to some estimates,

90 percent of future greenhouse gas emissions will come from developing countries. 'That is why we have a plan for reducing their emissions in the right way', said he eventually, in an almost Messianic tone.

Since amounts such as the one mentioned by Brown seem to be coming from all over, for the sake of comparison, let us just mention that thus far, the US has spent as much as 915 billion US dollars for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and for anti-terrorism activities (whatever that may be). This amount is expected to grow to 1.08 billion US dollars by the end of the next fiscal year, 2010. If it were not intended for 'promoting democracy' and 'combating terrorism', can one even imagine how much this amount would have helped in relation to issues to be considered in Copenhagen? Of course not.

Highly industrialised countries have the highest per capita CO₂ emissions. Restricting the exceptionally high increase of emissions by emerging economies such as Indian or Chinese means also hindering their development, while even today some 400 million Indians live without electricity.

It would take a miracle for Copenhagen to end in a triumph, says Damian Carrington, an analyst for the British daily *The Guardian*. It may be triggered by President Barack Obama, but this is hard to believe. All the sides are most likely to stick to words and the ratification of the agreement in 2010. Should this conference end in a total fiasco, concludes Carrington, twenty years of negotiations would vanish, and the world would remain unprotected from the devastation caused by global warming. And indeed, we do need a miracle in Copenhagen.

(the article was completed in late November 2009)

the "Copenhagen Diagnosis" report published

on the recent findings of climate science

priređio i preveo Zoran Oštrić

A group of scientists published the report The Copenhagen Diagnosis, 2009: Updating the world on the Latest Climate Science (<http://www.copenhagendiagnosis.org/>). Given the significance of the document, we print here the explanation and the Executive Summary

It is more than three years since the drafting of text was completed for the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report (AR4)*. In the meantime, many hundreds of papers have been published on a suite of topics related to human-induced climate change.

The purpose of this report is to synthesize the most policy-relevant climate science published since the close-off of material for the last IPCC report. The rationale is two-fold. First, this report serves as an interim evaluation of the evolving science midway through an IPCC cycle - IPCC AR5 is not due for completion until 2013. Second, and most important, the report serves as a handbook of science updates that supplements the IPCC AR4 in time for Copenhagen in December 2009, and any national or international climate change policy negotiations that follow.

This report covers the range of topics evaluated by Working Group I of the IPCC, namely the Physical Science Basis.

The report has been purposefully written with a target readership of policy-makers, stakeholders, the media and the broader public. Each section begins with a set of key points that summarises the main findings. The science contained in the report is based on the most credible and significant peer-reviewed literature available at the time of publication. The authors primarily comprise previous IPCC lead authors familiar with the rigor and completeness required for a scientific assessment of this nature.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The most significant recent climate change findings are:

Surging greenhouse gas emissions: Global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels in 2008 were 40% higher than those in 1990. Even if global emission rates are stabilized at present-day levels, just 20 more years of emissions would give a 25% probability that warming exceeds 2°C. Even with zero emissions after 2030. Every year of delayed action increase the chances of exceeding 2°C warming.

Recent global temperatures demonstrate human-based warming: Over the past 25 years temperatures have increased at a rate of 0.190C per decade, in every good agreement with predictions based on greenhouse gas increases. Even over the past ten years, despite a decrease in solar forcing, the trend continues to be one of warming. Natural, short-term fluctuations are occurring as usual but there have been no significant changes in the underlying warming trend.

Acceleration of melting of ice-sheets, glaciers and ice-caps: A wide array of satellite and ice measurements now demonstrate beyond doubt that both the Greenland and Antarctic ice-sheets are losing mass at an increasing rate. Melting of glaciers and ice-caps in other parts of the world has also accelerated since 1990.

Rapid Arctic sea-ice decline: Summer-time melting of Arctic sea-ice has accelerated far beyond the expectations of climate models. The area of summertime sea-ice during 2007-2009 was about 40% less than the average prediction from IPCC AR4 climate models.

Current sea-level rise underestimates: Satellites show great global average sea-level rise (3.4 mm/yr over the past 15 years) to be 80% above past IPCC predictions. This acceleration in sea-level rise is consistent with a doubling in contribution from melting of glaciers, ice caps and the Greenland and West-Antarctic ice-sheets.

Sea-level prediction revised: By 2100, global sea-level is likely to rise at least twice as much as projected by Working Group I of the IPCC AR4, for unmitigated emissions it may well exceed 1 meter. The upper limit has been estimated as - 2 meters sea-level rise by 2100. Sea-level will continue to rise for centuries after global temperature have been stabilized and several meters of sea level rise must be expected over the next few centuries.

Delay in action risks irreversible damage: Several vulnerable elements in the climate system (e.g. continental ice-sheets, Amazon rainforest, West African monsoon and others) could be pushed towards abrupt or irreversible change if warming continues in a business-as-usual way throughout this century. The risk of transgressing critical thresholds ("tipping points") increase strongly with ongoing climate change. Thus waiting for higher levels of scientific certainty could mean that some tipping points will be crossed before they are recognized.

The turning point must come soon: If global warming is to be limited to a maximum of 2°C above pre-industrial values, global emissions need to peak between 2015 and 2020 and then decline rapidly. To stabilize climate, a decarbonized global society - with near-zero emissions of CO₂ and other long-lived greenhouse gases - need to be reached well within this century. More specifically, the average annual per-capita emissions will have to shrink to well under 1 metric ton CO₂ by 2050. This is 80-90% below the per-capita emissions in developed nations in 2000.



the so-called Climategate: an invented affair

Overviews of this invented affair have started to appear in Croatia too. Strong supporters of the idea that nothing should be done about climate change are trying to name it 'Climategate'.

Avid climate change denialists hacked into the computer system of the Climate Research Unit (CRU) of the University of East Anglia and placed on the Internet a lot of the 'stolen' material. A dozen sentences were extracted from several thousand e-mail messages and hundreds of other documents, and are being cited as evidence that the most renowned climatologists 'fixed' the data and prevented the so-called 'sceptics' from publishing their own results.

However, let us look at what the leading science magazines, the *Nature* and the *Science*, had to say after examining 'the evidence' in greater detail.

Nature: 'A fair reading of the e-mails reveals nothing to support the denialists' conspiracy theories.'

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v462/n7273/full/462545a.html>

The *Science* website presents a detailed explanation of all the disputed quotes.

<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/michael-mann-re.html>

The World Meteorological Organisation published its latest report on 7 December in Copenhagen: 'New data [...] shows that the last ten years are the warmest decade in 160 years of record taking.'

<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2009/12/wmo-warming-dat.html>

The powerful lobbies behind the deniers finance the work on numerous questionable scientific surveys, which seem to arrive to conclusions that suit only them. As an example, do read the following text, about one such person: Right-Wing Billionaire Funding Swift Boat Campaign Against Global Warming Science

<http://www.alternet.org/blogs/peek/144413/right-wing-billionaire-funding-swift-boat-campaign-against-global-warming-science>

When papers on such research arrive for peer review prior to publication, their questionable value comes to the surface. And once published, they are accompanied by huge propaganda. Partial results are torn out of context and presented as the ultimate evidence that conclusions by the World Meteorological Organisation, the International Panel on Climate Change and others, on the reality of climate change and the highly probable human impact – are just wrong.

'The denial industry [...] has no interest in establishing the truth about global warming,' says George Monbiot, the scientific commentator of the UK daily *The Guardian*. On the contrary,



© Christian Aslund / Greenpeace

the propaganda spread by fossil fuel companies has been exposed many times over the past twenty years.

<http://www.monbiot.com/archives/2009/12/07/the-real-climate-scandal>

Scientists have debated this issue. The question of adequate peer review of papers for publication has been raised. 'In any other field [a bad paper] would just be ignored,' says Gavin Schmidt at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York. 'The problem is the climate field has become extremely politicized, and every time some nonsense paper gets into a proper journal, it gets blown out of all proportion.'

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=120846593>

Others have concluded that the criteria need to be stricter and coordinated efforts need to be introduced, in order to preserve scientific dignity. There are others still, who are convinced of the reality of climate change, but still believe that the concern may be excessive. There have also been papers claiming that the possible consequences of the climate change may be even worse than the 'consensus', or the majority scientific opinion indicates, but such papers never got to be published.

For an overview of ongoing changes, see, for example, a text published in the *Scientific American* a year ago: *Top 10 Places Already Affected by Climate Change*

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/slideshow.cfm?id=top-10-places-already-affected-by-climate-change>

For more on the impact of the climate change on Croatia, see the *UNDP Human Development Report Croatia 2008*.

<http://www.undp.hr/show.jsp?newscontainer=72228&page=52608&singlenewsid=103798>

It should be noted that due to the immense complexity of this issue, none of this has been or can be proved *with absolute certainty*. Even if Croatia turns into Sahara, we cannot be *absolutely certain* that human activity contributed to the change.

However, this is a matter of *political choice* of principle: do we wait for an absolutely certain proof (which is, in principle, impossible), or do we rely on assessments that major trouble is *possible* and take measures? The latter is the '*principle of precaution*' and clearly corresponds to '*common sense*'.

early warnings – declarations of the
Global Greens

climate change – time for transformation

São Paulo, Brazil, 4 May 2008

Global Greens call on the international community to negotiate in good faith to ensure that a binding and equitable regime for global greenhouse gas reductions that is consistent with avoiding dangerous climate change is agreed at COP 17 at Copenhagen in 2009.

CLIMATE CHANGE – TIME FOR TRANSFORMATION

Climate change and unsustainable use of limited resources have converged in this first decade of the 21st Century to challenge humanity to rethink how we live because we cannot continue to live beyond the Earth's ecological limits and at the same time avoid the collapse of human civilisation because of dangerous climate change and the war, famine, poverty, ecosystem destruction and species extinction that will accompany it.

Therefore, facing the reduction in easily accessible oil and gas reserves together with growing alarm at the speed of climate change and the insufficient action, particularly of those countries that bear the greatest responsibility for emitting greenhouse gases, Global Greens call on the international community to negotiate in good faith to ensure that a binding and equitable regime for global greenhouse gas reductions that is consistent with avoiding dangerous climate change is agreed at COP 17 at Copenhagen in 2009.

Global Greens call for the international community to commit to the Bali mandate by:

- building on key principles and mechanisms of the UN-FCCC and Kyoto Protocol taking into account common but differentiated responsibilities;
- setting rigorous short, medium and long-term emission reduction goals consistent with limiting average global temperature increase to below +2°C above pre-industrial levels, giving due consideration to climate science published since the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- requiring the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60% by 2050 compared to the 1990 level;
- applying binding targets for industrialised countries and fair and proportionate targets for developing countries,

- while still acknowledging the mechanisms causing growth in emissions in emerging economies;
- including effective and predictable financing for adaptation, incentives for ecosystem restoration and to avoid deforestation and forest degradation and reduce land use emissions;
- making significant advances in reducing dependence on fossil fuels and facilitating non-nuclear and non-fossil fuel technology transfer and deployment; and
- including the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.

Global Greens maintain that reducing global emissions must not lead to other threats such as nuclear risks, including nuclear proliferation, the risk of terrorists getting control over nuclear technology, or the risks posed by the disposal of nuclear waste. Nuclear power must remain excluded from mechanisms aimed at promoting emission reductions under the international climate framework.

Climate change must be recognised as an issue of human rights and global equity, with security implications that might threaten international peace. Global Greens consider that finding an equitable solution is fundamental for success in international climate policy, and support the principle not only of contracting CO₂ emissions but also of converging global per capita emissions.

Global Greens are convinced that a world that does not rely on fossil fuels or nuclear energy is possible. To achieve this, it is necessary to set out a binding emission reduction pathway for coming decades to ensure investment in energy-saving, resource-efficient and renewable energy technologies. This sustainable energy shift will also bring an increase in quality of life as people adopt localized food production and consumption, decrease dependency on private vehicles by improving public transport options, implement energy efficient building design and codes, and redesign urban planning to encourage walking and cycling as forms of transport.

Global Greens consider it imperative that global emissions peak no later than 2015, and that greenhouse gas emissions thereafter decline to a level below the natural absorption capacity of natural sinks, recognising the alarming evidence in the latest science that this capacity is decreasing.

Industrialised countries must play a leading role in tackling climate change at world level. Global Greens call for developed countries to commit to domestic reductions of at least 40% by 2020 and reductions of at least 90% by 2050 compared with 1990 levels. To achieve these reductions we need to:



biodiversity and climate crisis

São Paulo, Brazil, 4 May 2008

Ecological wisdom is a fundamental principle of the Global Greens Charter and protecting biodiversity, the variety of life on earth, is a central Green priority.

Biodiverse ecosystems, particularly forests, have a crucial role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating impacts, yet they are almost absent from the climate debate. This is exacerbating the global biodiversity crisis. Natural ecosystems are suffering directly from the impacts of climate change but also from the perverse impacts of measures which are supposed to tackle climate change, for example clearing natural vegetation to plant agrofuel crops.

Oceans cover almost 70% of the earth's surface and have a primary role in temperature setting and maintaining the earth's carbon balance. Coastal zones, the transition between oceans and continents, have the highest rates of diversity and biological productivity in the world as well as high levels of endemism. They are under pressure from more and more people living in coastal cities (expected to reach 75% of the world's population by 2050), industrial development, and over-exploitation of fisheries and other biological resources.

The earth's remaining natural ecosystems are essential to regulate the climate and keep the planet habitable. Extensive, natural forests are especially valuable: they are stable, resilient, very large carbon stores and must be protected at all costs.

Forest destruction through clearing and industrial-scale logging, the degradation and desertification of shrublands and grasslands and industrial-scale agrofuel production (crops, including tree crops, grown to produce energy) are all contributing to climate change. Emissions from clearing and degradation of other natural ecosystems add to this.

Emissions from forest clearing, industrial-scale logging and ecosystem degradation are at least 25% of the global emissions problem. They demand 25% of the resources and attention.

The Global Greens agree

1. To propose a common protocol under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: The Biodiversity and Climate Protocol, which
 - a) recognises the linkages between biodiversity and climate change, specifically the role of terrestrial and oceanic ecosystems in the global carbon cycle, the critical role of extensive natural forests and rangelands in storing carbon and protecting the climate, and the need to protect biodiversity as a key response to climate change;
 - b) commits parties to prevent actions under the Climate Change Convention which have adverse impacts on biodiversity;



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- Place quantifiable limits on fossil fuel extraction;
- Phase out all government subsidies on coal, oil and natural gas;
- Promote investment in renewable energy, sustainable transport and energy productivity;
- Promote technological innovation;
- Adopt a principle of polluter pays.

Deforestation and forest degradation, in all forests, need to be tackled urgently and rigorously in the international climate policy framework. Global Greens call for urgent agreement to develop effective full carbon accounting measures, in particular to counteract the negative impacts linked to agrofuels and the conversion to monoculture plantations. Measures to address climate change must not damage biodiversity, water and nature but should be designed to enhance them through protection and restoration. They must respect the rights of local communities and be fair to developing countries. Global Greens call for integration of the work of the Convention on Biodiversity and the UNFCCC so as to develop a global system of biodiversity accounting linked to improved carbon accounting systems.

Recognising that even a two degree global average temperature increase (over pre-industrial levels) will cause significant human suffering, Global Greens insist that the international climate policy framework must also provide independent and predictable financing to assist low-income vulnerable countries in adapting to already inevitable climate change. This is particularly important in that it was industrialised countries that largely created the problem and it is developing countries least responsible for climate change that suffer its most significant impacts.

The Global Greens recognise that geological or oceanic sequestration is not a technically feasible option in the short term for decreasing concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Investment in sequestration and other experimental geo-engineering schemes diverts funding from proven, sustainable, long-term renewable energy solutions.

Global Greens support the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as a means of promoting climate-friendly technologies as a supplement and not a replacement for domestic reductions.

http://www.globalgreens.org/brazil2008/declarations/climate_change_time_for_transformation

- c) includes enforceable commitments to (i) protect extensive natural forests and other ecosystems from clearing and industrial-scale logging; and (ii) restore degraded ecosystems; in order to maintain and enhance their vital role in storing carbon and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
 - d) establishes a very large global biodiversity fund to support local communities and all levels of government in protecting, restoring and managing natural ecosystems to conserve biodiversity, store carbon and improve water management.
2. To campaign for carbon offsets to be excluded from emission trading systems¹, and in favour of the establishment of a very large global biodiversity fund. The fund would draw resources from sources including a proportion of the proceeds of emissions trading schemes and carbon taxes, and from the redirection of fossil fuel subsidies.
 3. To oppose mandatory targets and subsidies for agro-fuels, except where their production is demonstrably greenhouse positive, does not impact on biodiversity, and does not compete against food production for land and water.
 4. To campaign for full carbon accounting, measuring emissions and uptake separately, as the basis for determining the climate impact of actions. We reject any assumption that industrial-scale logging in natural forests is 'sustainable' or carbon neutral.
 5. To work for the protection of forests, especially in Amazonia, as a priority. Forest destruction is threatening biodiversity as well as forcing the Indigenous people of Amazonia out of their lands. The Greens will protect the rights of the Indigenous communities living in Amazonia.
 6. To uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples, women and local communities in forest and ecosystem protection programs.
 7. To campaign against illegal and unsustainable logging by (i) banning imports of tropical timbers, unless certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, and (ii) taking action against corruption.
 8. To work for sustainable tourism that provides economic incentives to preserve and protect ecosystems and culture, and creates income for local communities.
 9. To campaign for effective government action at national and international level to protect oceans and their biodiversity.
 10. To promote organic, diverse and GMO-free agriculture and carbon-conserving forms of land management to improve the health and carbon-richness of agro-ecosystems.
 11. To recognize that raising animals for food contributes significantly to biodiversity loss and climate change, through deforestation and methane production.
 12. To support voluntary carbon offsets based on the restoration of natural ecosystems and cultural and amenity plantings that have legally enforceable permanent protection.

http://www.globalgreens.org/brazil2008/declarations/biodiversity_climate_crisis

¹ Note however that the Global Greens support the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as a means of promoting climate-friendly technologies as a supplement and not a replacement for domestic reductions.

environment and human rights

the state of human rights in environment and sustainable development in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Branka Inić*

How is environmental protection exercised as a human right – according to the Helsinki Human Rights Committee in BiH? No umbrella law on environmental protection has been adopted, and entity and cantonal legislation is mainly just declaratory.

Supported by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Helsinki Human Rights Committee implemented a monitoring mission in relation to the state of human rights in issues of environmental protection and sustainable development in different local communities: Jajce, Srebrenica, Zenica, Jablanica, Mostar (Prenj, Čvrsnica, Čabulje), Bihać, Bosanska Krupa and Bužim.

The aim was to obtain assessments from local NGOs, business corporations, local authorities, and health care institutions in these communities about the state of the environment and sustainable development in these areas, from the point of view of respect for the right to health.

THE LEGAL BASIS...

While preparing for the visits, the team analysed local legislation on these issues and noted that the Constitution of BiH does not include explicit provisions on the rights related to the environment, and that there was no umbrella law on environmental protection. These rights are regulated by no more than entity and cantonal legislation and laws of the Brčko District.

Along with the fact that there has been progress in harmonising local legislation with EU legislation and that state level environmental action plans have been adopted, followed by local plans, the fact remains that entity and cantonal legislation remains mainly declaratory.

The focus of the team was primarily on the application of EU directives and on including them in local legislation, as well as on the observance of human rights protection instruments, including third generation rights, such as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, International Covenant on Civic and Political Rights,

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International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights, European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice and Environmental Issues (Aarhus 1998).

Despite the fact that these documents have been ratified, an analysis of the state of human rights in areas covered by the monitoring lead to the conclusion that the environmental situation is indeed very unfavourable in all the areas and the environment continues to be devastated, degraded, and even destroyed.

... AND THE ACTUAL SITUATION

This applies to all aspects of the environment (water, atmosphere, air, pedosphere, soil), and particularly the hydrosphere.

The quality of most water flows, including source areas, has been badly damaged. Some of them are beyond any category of quality. Many water flows have been contaminated by different chemical and biological agents, including sewage, and are now a threat to flora, fauna and humans.

Due to intensive transition processes and indiscriminate privatisation of numerous businesses, environmental issues remain unresolved for a number of years and there seem to be no indicators that any of the chronic environmental problems would be resolved any time soon.

There are indications in many areas that there has been illegal 'storage' of dangerous waste of unknown origin, quantity or stability (Srebrenica, Jajce, Zenica, Bužim).

Unfortunately, businesses do not seem to be willing to deal with this problem in an environmentally acceptable and health-conscious way, and the local authorities have no power or interest in becoming more actively involved in dealing with these issues.

It is important to note that air pollution is rising, which is why there are more and more persons with different respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, skin and eye complications, including serious pathological states such as cancer, decreased fertility – there are more and more childless couples – as well as different congenital conditions.

In some areas, such as Srebrenica, there is a pronounced problem of access to safe potable water. Most of the school water supply systems contain faeces bacteria, which is why such water has not been safe for use for quite some time, reducing the basic hygiene to a minimum.

In other areas, such as Bužim for example, there is no urban sewage system or the necessary collection facility, and residents are supplied by several water systems, most of which are not under adequate sanitation control.

As for solid waste disposal and establishment of regional depots, such activities are very slow and insufficiently coordinated (Bihać, Jablanica, Mostar, Srebrenica). In some areas, existing local depots are not used to their adequate capacity.

There is a particular problem with depots in the Jablanica-Mostar area, where there is no depot for animal waste disposal. The relevant inspections do not act adequately and their interventions are belated, often merely *ex officio*.

THE RESPONSIBLE ONES: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY (DO NOT) DO

There is evident inadequacy in the work of inspectorates in all the areas, but those agencies clearly have insufficient staffing. At the same time, there is no adequate cooperation among different levels of governance. Moreover, federal ministries do not inform cantonal

ones about activities and measures adopted to enhance the very basic environmental rights of the citizens.

Namely, there is no adequately developed monitoring of the quality of the environment (air, water, soil, food, etc.), resulting in the absence of timely reporting on measurements (daily and visibly displayed) or public advice on the state of particular elements of the environment both in terms of the type of pollutants and their concentration or intensity and measures of protection and long-term management (Zenica).

The attitude of local communities towards environmental issues is also inadequate. Most of them are not taking the legally prescribed measures to establish a safe environment.

Also, quite a few local communities are failing to demonstrate even a minimum of responsibility, some of them are not even fully aware of the problem, and there is no adequate coordination of activities, either among them and the NGO sector, or between local communities and upper levels of governance, in deciding and acting responsibly in relation to environmental issues.

It should be emphasised that issues related to the environment and the citizens' right to a healthy environment are not transparent enough and citizens are not adequately involved in decisions related to it. This is evident in situations that can be defined as 'critical' (unsafe drinking water, air pollution, unsafe food of animal origin, etc.), when citizens do not receive timely information.

Heavy pollution of water, soil and air has been identified in many areas, along with inadequate waste disposal. Local communities and companies are showing no interest in this problem; institutions, and primarily the inspectorates, do not act in compliance with their authority and do not have the necessary staffing.

Environmental issues should and must be part of the daily interest of every citizen. Therefore, policies and decisions related to environmental protection must not rest exclusively with the authorities. Instead, they should be part of the natural rights of each individual. This would ensure better protection and promotion of environmental rights.

It is clear that there is no clear definition of competence, and thus no clear definition of responsibility, in the area of environmental protection. This creates room for irresponsible behaviour of the authorities, as well as companies that work in the so-called 'dirt' industry, or public utility companies, irresponsible individuals and small companies, which bear no sanctions for their conduct.

It should also be noted that there is no adequate inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation in issues of prevention of environmental pollution.

Institutional capacities are not adequately equipped, nor are they prepared for efficient and transparent government action. They lack adequate experts in technology, economy and law, and this leads to very long processes for obtaining environmental permits, ultimately leading to incomplete and inadequate environmental management. It is thus no surprise that we are witnesses to ecocide and destruction of all the natural goods.

Therefore, the level of protection and observance of third generation rights (the right to healthy life and healthy environment) will be one of the priority issues for BiH authorities in the forthcoming period, in order to fulfil conditions for Euro-Atlantic integration processes.

news

Bosnia and Herzegovina

EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESENTED THE 2009 BIH PROGRESS REPORT

Brussels – Sarajevo, October 2009. – The section of the Progress Report covering environmental protection and energy says the following:

As for the environment, preparations in BiH are still in the initial stages. BiH should strengthen its environmental protection institutions, particularly those at state level. It is also necessary to raise public awareness of environmental issues in other sectors. Establishment of a harmonised legal framework for protection of the environment, establishment of a state agency for the environment, and a functional environmental supervision system, would be a significant step forward. BiH should also intensify its efforts in relation to commitments arising from international conventions.

Preparations have started in the area of energy, though they are still in the initial stages. Little progress has been noted during the reporting period, and the country is still lagging behind in fulfilling the requirements of the Energy Community Treaty. Lack of cooperation and coordination between the two entities prevents the development of a functional energy market and hinders improvements in the area of supply security. It is crucial to prepare a comprehensive energy strategy, including promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

BIH ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH RESULTS

Sarajevo, 29 October 2009 – The Tuzla Centre for Environment and Energy presented in Sarajevo the results of its environmental research in BiH and other Western Balkan countries. The survey was conducted in July-September this year and it included respondents from Albania, BiH, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia, divided into six target groups.

This survey showed that no more than 11% of the citizens of these counties are in fact satisfied with the quality of their environment. Representatives of local self-governance, the civil sector, and the citizens emphasized that the principal local environmental problems were poor waste management, illegal waste sites, polluted water flows and air pollution.

Representatives of local self-governance emphasized that transport was the principal pollutant, and the civil sector and the citizens held that those were major manufacturers and households, but also the citizens themselves.

Speaking about measures that may deliver the best results, almost 70% of BiH citizens proposed strict fines for polluters, education programmes and consistent observance of laws. Citizens across the region agreed that fines for polluters were very mild and that laws were not adequately applied.

Respondents in all the countries agreed that environmental protection was important for the process of accession to the EU. As for BiH, 67.2% of the respondents in this country indicated that this issue was extremely important for them, 24.1% that it was important, and 8,6% stated that it was important, though not crucial.

It should be noted that representatives of legislative and executive authorities from across the region agreed that construction of nuclear power plants was not a good solution for overcoming the energy crisis and that environmental issues were of great importance for the process of accession to the European Union.

source: www.ekologija.ba

SULPHUR REDUCTION PROJECT AT THE UGLJEVIK MINE AND THERMAL PLANT

Banja Luka 2 November – On 2 November 2009, the RS Minister of Finance Mr. Aleksandar Džombić signed on behalf of the RS Government a contract with representatives of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency and the RS *Elektroprivreda*, to install a system for eliminating sulphur from exhaust fumes of the 'Ugljevik' Mine and Thermal Plant.

The project is valued at 15.9 billion yen (approximately 117 million Euros), of which 93 million Euros will come from a loan from the Japanese Government and 24 million from co-funding by 'Ugljevik' itself.

This project will improve the quality of environmental protection as well as secure harmonisation with environmental regulations of the European Union.

The loan is approved with an interest rate of 0.55 percent per annum and a repayment period of 30 years (including a 10-year grace period), said Minister Džombić and emphasised that this was a capital project for the RS.

A tender was announced for next year for a project design and the entire process is to be completed by the end of 2014.

The contract was also signed by the General Manager of the RS *Elektroprivreda* Ms. Branislava Milekić and Mr. Anto Gajić, Director of the Ugljevik Mine and Plant. Mr. Sotoro Kurosawa, who signed the contract on behalf of the Government of Japan, said they were very pleased with this project.

Ugljevik has outdated facilities and uses high sulphur content coal, which has very limited thermal value.

The Thermal Power Plant emits 25.000 mg/m³N of sulphur dioxide, which is 60 times more than the EU standard emission of 400 mg/m³N.

This project is expected to reduce the emission of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) by 98.4 percent. Dust emission is expected to be reduced by 66.7 percent, which would be a significant improvement to environment quality in BiH.

The Ugljevik Plant has a share of some 23 percent in the total production of electric power in Republika Srpska.

KALINOVIK MUNICIPALITY AND THE CAPITAL PROJECT OF BUILDING THE ULOG HYDRO POWER PLANT ON THE NERETVA RIVER: TOTAL INVESTMENT VALUE - 100 MILLION EUR

The Kalinovik Municipality will soon prepare a development plan for the Ulog local town community, and ETF, the energy company that has already received a concession from the RS Government, is planning to build a hydro power plant on the Neretva river.

This was confirmed for 'Fokus' by the Mayor of Kalinovik, Ms. Mileva Komlenović, emphasizing that this new development and zoning document would include the entire area from the inter-entity boundary, upstream along the Neretva river, ending in the town of Ulog.

'We are optimistic and we expect this project to deliver concrete results, particularly in the field of employment. The first announcement of construction of a major hydro power plant on the

Neretva river caused a positive shock among the population of our municipality and brought a certain amount of optimism in relation to the future perspectives of this area,' said Komlenović. She also expressed hope that the launch of his project will stop the departure of youth from Kalinovik.

Based on the original feasibility study by EFT, the Ulog Plant is conceived as a classic derivation facility, comprising two generators of installed power of 35 megawatts, producing almost 80 gigawatt-hours of electric power per year.

The total value of the investment is some 100 million Euros, and in addition to the actual facility, the project includes a major road and a 100-kilovolt line from the Ulog Plant to the Kalinovik Transformer Station. According to announcements, the entire project is to be implemented in compliance with EU environmental directives, and project deadlines indicate that the test run is expected in 2013.

http://www.zeleni-neretva.ba/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=164&Itemid=1

AUSTRIAN COMPANIES ALPINE AND SWIETELSKY WIN AN 85 MILLION EURO CONTRACT TO BUILD A FAST RAILWAY IN BIH

7 November 2009 – Austrian companies *Alpine* and *Swietelsky* won a major contract to build 165 kilometres of fast railway in BiH, valued at some 85 million Euros, confirmed the BiH Public Railway Corporation (BHŽJK). Dragan Čalović, director of the Project Implementation Unit at BHŽJK, said that the joint stock company *Alpine – Swietelsky* won the tender that included six other international construction companies. The project includes a full reconstruction of the railway at sections of Konjic - Raška Gora - Čapljina in FBiH, with total length of 99 kilometres,

and Kostajnica near Doboј - Jošavka near Čelinac in the RS, with total length of 66 kilometres. New railway lines are to be laid by 2012, allowing trains to run at speeds of up to 120 km per hour, i.e. twice as fast as the current average.

Nikola Pilipović, director of the *Alpine BiH* office, said that the company would launch the preparation works as soon as the contract has been signed, and that the actual reconstruction may start early next year, so that the project can end in January 2012. The number of construction workers to be engaged will be determined after the signing, but it has already been announced that the BiH railway companies will generate a considerable revenue by providing transportation services for some 1.5 T of different materials. The railroad is to be reconstructed applying the TER European standards, which include the use of E60 concrete sleepers instead of wooden ones, and eruptive gravel instead of ground. The management of the RS Railway (ŽRS) expects the construction to attract much of the road passenger transport to railway, emphasising that in addition to the Banjaluka-Doboј section, the ŽRS wants to reconstruct other railroads in the RS. *'We will soon announce an invitation for bids to modernise the entire railroad network, from Novi Grad to Zvornik, allowing travel speeds from 120 to 160 km per hour,'* emphasised Stanojević, the ŽRS general manager. In the meantime, he noted, the company should receive four Talgo trains already commissioned from Spain, as well as modernise 12 electric engines, and continue negotiations with companies from Poland, Slovakia and Serbia to purchase a total of 600 freight carriages.

'We would thus renew our current pool of some 1,000 outdated railway carriages which are to be decommissioned in two years, and modernise railway passenger transport in the RS in the mid-term,' said Petković.

source: ekapija.com



Hrvatska

CROATIA ADOPTED ITS FIFTH ENERGY STRATEGY IN 22 YEARS

On 16 October, with 73 votes in favour and 30 against, the Croatian Parliament adopted the new Energy Development Strategy for the Republic of Croatia. The Governments' proposal, which the Parliament had already rejected in July, was now adopted with no amendments. The parliamentary committees on environment and special planning had previously given a negative opinion, and there was no debate prior to the October vote.

A public debate was held in November and December 2008. Numerous experts and environmental activists presented their objections to the Strategy, which envisages rapid growth of power consumption, increased import dependence and an increase in carbon dioxide emissions for the period until 2030. It thus provides that until 2020, Croatia should reach the current average EU per capita power consumption, with a continuing growth trend until 2030 – whereas the EU intends to reduce its consumption.

As for renewable sources, the only rapid growth is envisaged in the power of wind farms already installed, and a very modest growth in the use of solar energy. Liquid fuel consumption should grow in the transport sector, particularly in road transport. Further construction growth is envisaged, with an underestimated possibility for a dramatic reduction in energy consumption by building 'passive houses'. A nuclear energy programme is to be launched, two new thermal power plants are to be built, using imported coal; the Družba-Adria oil pipeline project is to be revived, after having been rejected a few years ago on environmental grounds – though this is of no impact for Croatia, as it is only a transport issue.

This is the fifth 'strategic' document on Croatian energy since 1980s with no major change in the basic thinking. The decisive element is still the short-term interest of existing lobbies, with no vision or concept.

links

Text of the Strategy was published in the Official Gazette on 30 October 2009:

http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2009_10_130_3192.html

Report on two parliamentary committee debates, 2 July 2009:

<http://www.sabor.hr/Default.aspx?art=28959>

Green Action position:

<http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/content/view/976/1/lang,hr/>

The Sun will also shine in the 22nd century (a PowerPoint presentation):

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/23996128/Sunce-%C4%87e-nas-grijati-i-u-22-stolje%C4%87u>

PRODUCTION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULES AND SOLAR POWER PLANTS IN CROATIA

There are seven solar power plants in Croatia at the moment, with total power of some 100 kilowatts and with photovoltaic panels placed on roofs and walls. Only two have gone through the complicated bureaucratic procedure of recognising the 'feed-in' tariff for delivery into the distribution system. In 2007, the EU reached 4.5 GW (million kilowatts) in installed power and opened 40,000 new jobs, and the plan for 2020 is 100 GW and 200,000 jobs. Using the

EU incentive funds, the Czech Republic installed five megawatts in two years. Slovenia is planning 100 megawatts (thousand kilowatts) by 2020, and 1,000 MW by 2030.

The Ruđer Bošković Research Institute in Zagreb has been working on photovoltaic system research since 1980s. The first solar photovoltaic modules factory, the 'Končar – solarne ćelije' plant, was built near Split in 1989. Without the support of the state, the company was unable to maintain its presence in the international market and it finally closed down in 2007.

However, new factories were opened, 'Solaris' near Novigrad, and 'Solvis' in Varaždin this year. The latter is currently implementing the largest project in Croatia thus far: placing solar panels on the Rijeka ring road wind defence tunnel, of total length of 352 metres (2,424 square metres of panels of total power of 270 kW).

Power generated by photovoltaic systems is still expensive and not profitable without an incentive from the state. Boosted by spectacular technological development, the prices continue to fall, and developed countries see it as the basis of future energy systems.

links:

Croatian professional solar energy association:

<http://www.hsuse.hr/>

Solaris d.o.o., Novigrad (Istria)

<http://solaris-novigrad.hr/>

Solvis d.o.o., Varaždin

<http://www.solvis.hr>

DISPUTED AMENDMENTS TO THE ACT ON GMO

In October, the Croatian Parliament had a summary vote, with no votes against and just one abstained, and adopted the Act on Changes and Amendments of the Act on Genetically Modified Organisms, originally adopted in 2005. The reason for the summary vote was reportedly the harmonisation of Croatian legislation with the EU *acquis*. This is a fake reason, since the disputed issue of 'coexistence' contains just one non-binding recommendation of the European Commission. And as the vote was a summary one, there was no public debate.

Green Action, the Croatian bio-ethics society, and other opponents of GMO being released into the environment protested in particular the introduction of a chapter on 'coexistence of genetically modified crop and conventional and environmentally safe agricultural farming', which states that 'coexistence' is to be regulated by the 'National Strategy', which is yet to be adopted.

According to the latest Eurobarometer surveys, 85 to 95 per cent of EU citizens are against GMO in the environment. (No one disputes its use under controlled laboratory conditions.) The situation in Croatia is similar and 18 out of 21 counties used the opportunity to ban GMO crop from its territories. In a meeting in April this year, the president of the Croatian Peasants Alliance and an important eco-friendly producer, the former champion boxer Željko Mavrović, caused a considerable media stir with his fierce opposition to the possible 'coexistence' of GMO and eco-friendly (organic) farming.

However, in an interview published by the www.seljaci.org portal, Dr. Domagoj Šimić, a GMO advocate, stated that this was a done deal: GMO can be farmed, except in protected nature reserves.

links:

Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Genetically Modified Organisms:

http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2009_11_137_3318.html

Debate by the parliamentary committee for environmental protection:

<http://www.sabor.hr/Default.aspx?art=30350>

Green Action position:

<http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/content/view/993/1/lang.hr/>

Against GMO – now and forever! (a blog with useful links):

<http://zoranostriczelenalista.blog.hr/2009/11/1627010521/protiv-genetski-modificiranih-organizama-sada-i-uvijek.html>

GMO is demonised by ignorance (interview with Dr. Domagoj Šimić):

<http://www.seljaci.org/savjetnik/povrtlarstvo/gmo-se-soto-nizira-zbog-neznanja.html>

CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH THE ACT ON GOLF

Late last year, Croatia became the only country in Europe and perhaps the only country in the world with a separate Act on Golf Courses. Transparency International Croatia (TIH) stated recently that this was a blatant example of state capture by a single interest group. A proposal was submitted to the Constitutional Court in February to examine the constitutionality of this Act.

The Act prescribes that ‘construction of golf courses shall be a matter of special interest for the Republic of Croatia’. The investor is to receive numerous advantages in relation to the state, but also in relation to other private owners (for example, expropriation of land). There is a possibility for 25% of the land to be allocated for ‘auxiliary facilities’ (hotels, blocks of suites), thus bypassing construction restrictions.

The Act was adopted despite numerous protests by associations, local construction initiatives, scientists and prominent individuals, including golfers themselves, who indicated numerous problems in the provisions.

Along with plans to develop dozens of golf courses, a campaign continues to abolish the Act. Croatia is thus part of a global movement launched by the former Japanese golfer Gen Morita in 1993, with his ‘Antigolf Manifesto’.

links

Law on Golf Courses:

http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2008_12_152_4146.html

Golf, capitalism, destruction:

<http://www.h-alter.org/index.php?page=article&id=1851#hot>

Golf is just a cover for cheap land sale in Istria:

<http://www.barkun.hr/content/view/18907/89/>

Facebook group: We demand the abolishment of the Law on Golf Courses:

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/172252>

Green Action: a call for Internet action:

http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/component/option,com_wrapper/Itemid,534/lang.hr/

Global Antigolf Movement:

<http://www.antigolf.org/>

JOURNALISTS END THE SILENCE

After the Government introduced a special income tax (called ‘the forced poll tax’), pressured by the economic crisis, a ‘hot summer’ was announced in Croatia. There were no mass protests, but journalists did make politicians uncomfortable. An end to the journalists’ silence about censorship and discrimination against the journalistic profession and journalists as workers culminated in

a protest organised by the Croatian Journalists Society on 10 December, the International Human Rights Day.

More importantly, a ‘silent protest’ was organised by HTV on 20 November. Some 100 journalists took part, including some TV celebrities. It took them long but it was not too late! Protests by journalists and the public finally led to the removal of the HRT director, Vanja Sutlić, along with several other senior managers, and a motion for removal of the widely disliked head of the News and Current Affairs Programme Hloverka Novak-Srzić.

There was also an important protest by reporters of the *Večernji list* daily. Its management announced the dismissal of four photojournalists: all the journalists announced a ‘solidarity strike’ and forced them to withdraw the decision.

The freelance journalist and blogger Željko Peratović, president of the HND freelance chapter, announced his departure from Croatia because of the persecution he has been exposed to for the past two years, orchestrated by Tomislav Karamarko, Minister of Police.

Another well-known blogger, editor of the www.vukovarac.net portal, Damir Fintić, received partial satisfaction following years of judicial prosecution by the former Mayor of Vukovar, Vladimir Štengl: the Supreme Court overturned the judgment which found Fintić guilty of defamation. Numerous cases against Fintić are examples of strategic lawsuits against public participation.

links:

Stop Censorship – Free Press: a protest declaration:

<http://www.hnd.hr/hr/homepage/priopcenje/63067>

Three video reports from the protests:

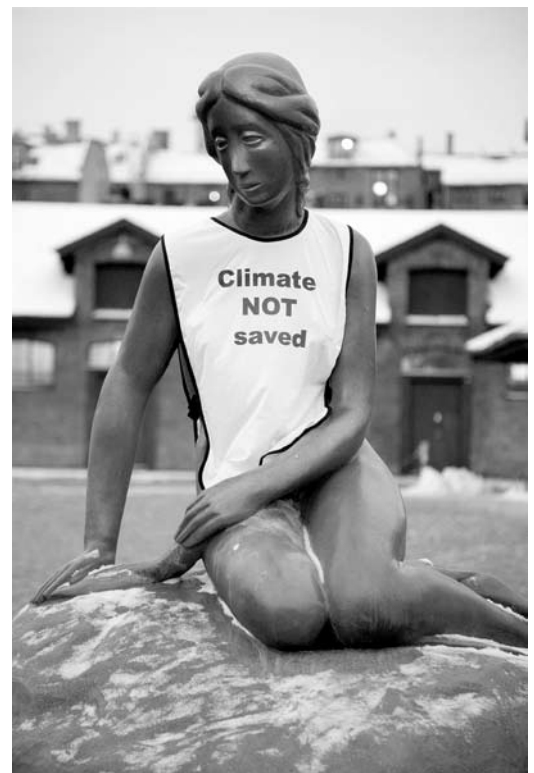
<http://peratovic.blog.hr/2009/12/1627104363/tri-autorska-video-a-s-prosvjeda-stop-cenzuri-sloboda-novinarima.html>

Hloverka received with open protests by journalists:

<http://www.tportal.hr/vijesti/hrvatska/44315/sprajc-i-Latin-prosvjedovali-protiv-cenzure-na-HRT-u.html>

Croatian bloggers organisation on the ‘Fintić case’:

<http://zoranostriczelenalista.blog.hr/2008/10/1625480437/hrvatska-blogerska-organizacija-prva-tiskovna-konferencija.html>



Serbia

OPENLY, ABOUT PUBLIC SPACES

Belgrade, 27 October 2009 (source: www.bgcentar.org.rs): A series of debates on public spaces continued as part of the campaign entitled *Openly, About Public Spaces*, by the Civic Initiatives' Youth Programme. This time, the focus was on the need of civil society and culture to use public spaces.

Part of the discussion was dedicated to the example of the 'Karlo Rojc' barracks in Pula and how it was transformed into a Civic Associations Centre, hosting some 100 civil society organisations, cultural and artistic initiatives. Dušica Radojčić, a guest from Pula, spoke about the civic-public sector partnership, as well as the joint management model, providing public supervision and participation of all the interested civic groups at the same time.

The issue of public spaces and their availability, as well as availability of information, is one of the key issues of civic organisation and activism. Despite the clear need, most initiatives and civic groups do not have access to any space. Problems include unclear procedures and competition terms and conditions, unclear competences of the institutions, lack of information and, frequently, the lack of will. The process of transition and the privatisation that accompanies it pushes this issue further to the margin of political agendas.

The Civic Initiatives' Youth Programme has become more engaged in this area precisely because the existing spatial resources are not used sufficiently to satisfy the need of various social groups. An additional reason is the fact that a considerable part of youth activism in Serbia comprises informal youth groups, with no resources necessary for them to communicate with the authorities.

So far, the *Openly, About Public Spaces* campaign has gathered information from more than 100 municipalities from Serbia, on various spaces under their authority and procedures for using some of those spaces.

GERMANY INVESTS 400 MILLION EUROS IN THE SERBIAN ENERGY SECTOR

Belgrade, 9 November 2009 (source: Emportal): Since 2000, Germany has invested 400 million Euros in the Serbian energy sector. Most of the money was invested in modernising the infrastructure of Serbian energy, said Wolfgang Maas, the German ambassador to Serbia, at the German-Serbian Dialogue on Energy Efficiency in Belgrade.

Most of the energy investment came from KfW, a development bank, through loans and donations amounting to some 130 million Euros.

Petar Škundrić, Minister for Energy and Mining, said that the largest items in the projects were the acquisition of equipment and reconstruction of thermal and hydro power plants and reconstruction of the remote heating system.

In collaboration with the German technical cooperation agency, GTZ, the Ministry of Energy is working on a new law on more rational use of energy.

Oliver Dulić, Minister for Environment and Spatial Planning, said that the Ministry was working on a new set of rules that would allow the implementation of the new Act on Planning and Construction, which should provide for an obligatory energy efficiency for all new buildings.

Dulić said that Serbia was at the bottom of the list of energy efficiency in Europe, and that the main culprits were large buildings, as well as unfinished private homes as a particular challenge. He said that there were ideas about introducing a rule for the citizens to complete the construction by placing insulation materials and facades.

He estimated that the cost of insulating 100m² house would be 2,500 Euros and that the investment would be recovered through lower energy bills in just a few years.

In addition to lectures, a mini fair on energy efficiency was organised at the Sava Centre, presenting 15 Serbian and German companies. Four different banks presented their loan packages supported by KfW.

PROMOTING INFORMAL GREEN DEPUTIES GROUP

Belgrade, 12 November 2009 (source: www.gradjanska.org): Modern Skills Centre, the Bells movement national coordinator for Serbia, organised at the Media Centre in Belgrade the first working meeting and a public promotion of the newly established informal group of green MPs. Prior to that, activists of the Bell movement sent a letter to all the delegates at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, with an invitation to join the informal GREEN group. This will be an opportunity to bring together all the delegates who responded positively to the invitation, as well as to present experiences of the GREEN groups in Macedonia and Montenegro, and to initiate regional collaboration.

The informal GREEN group is made up of delegates from different parties who are personally involved in environmental issues, who wish to be involved in the Bells movement and work actively on harmonising Serbian regulations with European standards and norms in the area of environmental protection. This concept of linking delegates interested in environmental issues has existed and worked successfully before, in form of open parliamentary groups in Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro. The aim of this project is for environmental issues to become priority and enter the focus of the decision-making process at all levels.

A LETTER BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH TO PRESIDENT TADIĆ

Belgrade, 17 November 2009 (source: <http://www.hrw.org/>): The Government of Serbia should soon take visible steps to stop the flood of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, said the Human Rights Watch (HRW) in a letter to President Boris Tadić on 16 November 2009. HRW called on the Government to provide full protection for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (LGBT).

'Over the past few years, homophobic violence has threatened the fundamental rights of LGBT persons', said Boris Dietrich, director of HRW for LGBT rights advocacy programme. 'Leading politicians should demonstrate courage in condemning hatred and preventing abuse'.

The Government cancelled a gay pride parade scheduled for 20 September 2009 in Belgrade, stating that it was unable to ensure safety for the participants, after those who were against it issued media statements and produced graffiti threatening to use violence against the parade.

Human Rights Watch also invited the Government to introduce equality and the need to prevent discrimination into the school curriculum, so that children can be educated in a safe environment, free from harassment or discrimination. The HRW



also invited the Government to provide full financial and other support to the new position of the national equality commissioner, provide for in the general anti-discrimination legislation adopted this year, and to ensure that the mandate of the commissioner includes LGBT issues.

'Freedom is a worthless piece of paper if the state cannot or will not extend protection to those who are threatened when they want to exercise it', said Dietrich. 'Hatred and prejudice have long prevented many Serbs from fully participating in their society'.

A STEP TOWARDS THE TRUTH ABOUT VUKOVAR, 18 YEARS LATER

Belgrade, 24 November 2009 (source: <http://www.e-novine.com>) It is important to find the perpetrators and those who are responsible for what happened to Vukovar and its citizens, and be constantly reminded of it, so that a crime like that would never be repeated – concluded the first public debate on the responsibility for the destruction of Vukovar, which brought to Belgrade the witnesses of the war and representatives of the current city authorities.

During the siege of Vukovar, which continued for more than 87 days, more than 1,000 civilians were killed and the bodies of many of them have not yet been found. Some 2,500 persons were injured and some 5,000 were taken to camps and prisons in Serbia. Vukovar was under systemic fire from land, water and air, and in those three months the city was practically razed to the ground. Eighteen years after the crime against the city and its citizens, representatives of victims' families and political representatives of the City of Vukovar came to Belgrade to discuss publicly the events of 1991.

Most of the participants expressed an opinion that the truth must be told, for the sake of the new generations.

The public debate on responsibility for the destruction of Vukovar, held on 23 November at the City Hall, was organised by the Youth Human Rights Initiative with support of the City, and participants included representatives of NGOs, the War Crimes Prosecutor, Croatian ambassador in Belgrade Mr. Željko Kuprešak, the pathologist Zoran Stanković, Žarko Korać, Janko Baljak, Nataša Kandić, and others.

The first debate of this kind ended with a symbolic presentation of the "Dove of Vukovar", presented by the Deputy Mayor of Vukovar, Željko Pinjuh, to Danko Runić, Director of the NGO Co-operation Agency of the City of Belgrade. This is a positive step in building relations between Vukovar and Belgrade, unfortunately covered by fewer local than regional media. It would be very good if we could soon host in Vukovar the representatives of the City of Belgrade, who should come to pay respects to the victims and bring a message of peace. For the sake of future generations.

MONITORING AIR QUALITY IN THE COAL BASIN OF KOSTOLAC

Kostolac, 19 November 2009 (source: NGO L.A.21 Kostolac): On Monday, 16 November 2009, an automatic air quality monitoring station was installed in the front yard of the Kostolac Town Community Office. This is one of the 28 stations donated by the European Union through its institutions. The project includes not only the 28 automatic stations, but also a mobile monitoring station, allowing measurements of specific parameters for up to several hours or days, upon request by environmental inspectors in cases of increased pollution. Part of this donation is also equipment for a national calibration laboratory that will be able to calibrate the testing equipment of all the measuring stations in Serbia run by the Environmental Agency. The equipment is valued at 700 million Euros. This will allow a full picture of air quality from particular locations, particularly close to major polluters.

The level of environmental concerns of the City of Požarevac is best illustrated by the fact that although the Environmental Fund forwarded hundreds of millions of dinars for that purpose, they have not made a single payment for any measuring station for city pollution. On the other hand, in agreement with the Kostolac community, they spent 100 million dinars on the Požarevac-Kostolac bypass road, which is still not operational, as there are no basic planning documents, lacking which the project could not have been launched or money received from the Fund. No political or criminal responsibility for this oversight has been assigned yet. And this money could have bought 10 automatic measuring stations for monitoring air quality, which would have covered all the populated areas of the Kostolac coal basin.

Europe

15 MILLION BUILDINGS RECEIVE ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY MAKEOVER

13 October 2009 – Should the European Commission adopt its action plan, the construction sector in the European Union may see a surge in the next ten years. The plan is to refurbish 15 million buildings by 2020, to reduce energy consumption. This initiative should be supported by the European Investment Bank.

This would re-direct to the reconstruction sector some 11 per cent of EU funds normally spent for energy supply. As the Commission estimates, if the planned initiative were to be implemented in full, oil consumption would be reduced by 37 million tonnes – a little below 20 billion dollars, based on the current prices.

'The Commission estimate that such an initiative may create 300 thousand additional jobs per year in construction and auxiliary services. It may be particularly profitable for those who work with insulation. Energy efficiency investment may play a key role in the recovery of European economy', says the draft document.

The proposal considers the idea to legally oblige home owners to renovate their houses in compliance with minimum environmental standards before they sell them, but it also underscores that this may be an invasion of citizens' fundamental rights. EU member states will decide the fate of this proposal.

ZaMirZINE/Hina

<http://www.zamirzine.net/spip.php?article8289>

BRUSSELS: TWO EUROS PER DAY FOR A HEALTHY LIFE

A recent study indicates that if they were to allocate two Euros per day for that purpose, Europeans may effect a decrease in the emission of toxic gasses, but they would have to reduce the quantity of meat in their diet, as well as the amount of driving.

The necessary changes include greater use of trains instead of planes for all travel shorter than 1,000 kilometres, says a report by the Environmental Institute in Stockholm.

The study considers the aim of reducing carbon dioxide emissions over the next ten years, to the level 40 percent lower than that in 1990.

Experts believe that this aim requires an increase in rail travel by nine percent and a decrease in meat consumption by some 60 percent.

The EU pledged to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 2020 to reach the level 20 percent lower than what it was in 1990.

Brussels announced that it would increase this percentage by one third if other developed countries join in.

Many scientists believe that a more radical reduction of toxic emissions is required to maintain the increase of global temperature at the level of less than two degrees Celsius.

source: Srna and Reuters

EU ADOPTS A LIST FOR GAS EMISSION LICENCES

5 November 2009 – The Environment Committee of the European Parliament adopted a list of industries eligible for free licences for additional carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

If they had to pay for the licences, those industries may relocate their production facilities outside the EU, said the TASR agency.

The list is part of the new Emission Trading System (ETS) for emissions not covered by the scheme. This revision was agreed upon by all the EU member states as part of the new climate energy package.

As it was presented, the aim is to reduce the volume of carbon dioxide emission by 2020 to at least 20 percent less than the 1990 level.

According to new regulations, emission allocations may be obtained at auctions. The so-called energy intensive industries, where there is a serious threat of having to relocate production to countries with less strict regulations, may receive free quota until 2020.

The European Commission (EC) as the executive body of the EU proposed that the list should include 164 sectors and sub-sectors, including chemical industry, steelworks, plastic and aluminium manufacturers. The risk of moving production to more favourable countries would cease in case of an international agreement, the signing of which would oblige other parts of the world to adopt similar measures to combat climate change as the ones in the EU.

The list should be reconsidered in five years, but it may be amended every year, on the basis of a request by a member state or on the basis of an EC initiative, should it become clear that a particular industry met the criteria.

Other industries will have to buy their licences at auctions, and 80% of the licences will be free by 2013, and only 30% will be free by 2020. As of 2027, all the carbon dioxide emission licences will have to be paid for.

source: Fena

A DROP IN PRIVATE VEHICLE REGISTRATION IN EUROPE

6 November 2009 – Many European countries noted a drop in registration of private vehicles in the first nine months of this year. According to the European Association of Car Manufacturers, the drop varied from 5.6% in Italy to a record-high of 80.2% in Lithuania

Croatia is in the middle of the two extremes with a drop of 49.7% in the first nine months, as well as Bulgaria with a 47% drop, and Hungary with a 59.3% drop, reported the *Vjesnik* daily in Zagreb.

On the other hand, under the influence of the government incentive to purchase new cars, Germany noted the highest rise in car registration, amounting to 26.1%, followed by Slovakia with 19.7%, the Czech Republic with 8%, Austria with 6.7%, France with 2.4% and Poland with 1.7% more in the number of new cars sold.

38,506 new private cars were registered in Croatia in the first ten months of this year, which is 50% less than in the same period last year, according to data from the regular monthly survey by the Promocija Plus agency.

'Opel' is at the top of the list with 4,277 vehicles and 11.1% share of the Croatian market.

source: Fena



short news

Serbia

LOANS TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Belgrade, 6 November 2009 (Ecotopia) - Procredit Leasing announced today that they would provide loans for small and medium enterprises and farmers. Loans are aimed at improving energy efficiency and the credit line is set at 15 million Euros.

BAD CONTRACT WITH RUSSIA

Belgrade, 7 November 2009 (Beta) – The Liberal Democratic Party criticised the Government of Serbia on Saturday for signing 'the worst contract with Russia on the Southern Flow' and for not reaching a gas deal with Gazprom as an equal partner, as Slovenia did. The Slovenians took almost two years to negotiate, but 'irresponsible politicians and party heads of public enterprises in Serbia accepted the first hint of conditions sent from Moscow', said LDP, stating that this had nothing to do with the friendly relations of the two countries. 'This is about jeopardising the energy autonomy of Serbia'.

A REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Belgrade, 25 November 2009 (Beta) – A regional ministerial conference of countries of Southeast Europe on climate changes and energy was held in Belgrade, with more than 200 participants in attendance. The aim of the conference was to promote cooperation and networking among countries in the region, in order to combat climate change. The conference included representatives of energy companies in the region, ambassadors, representatives of regional governments, statistics experts, experts in energy and environmental protection, and representatives of the European Union.

FREE SCREENINGS OF A FILM ON ECOLOGY ACROSS SERBIA

Belgrade, 26 November 2009 (JM) – From 30 November until 8 December, free screenings of 'Era of the Stupid', a film on ecology, were organised in all the 17 municipalities of the city of Belgrade, as well as 30 different towns across Serbia. The screening was organised as part of a campaign to raise awareness of climate changes before the UN climate conference in Copenhagen.

PETROHEMIJA QUESTIONS THE FINDINGS OF THE STATE INSPECTORATE

Pančevo, 27 November 2009 (Ecotopia) - Director of Petrohemija, Saša Pavlov, stated that he had doubts as to the inspectorate findings that served as the basis for charges against the factory, following a confirmed increase in pollution around Pančevo. Vesna Martinović, the Mayor of Pančevo, announced today that criminal charges would be brought against all who were responsible for pollution in the city, if this were not done by the relevant state inspectorate. She said that the level of pollution found yesterday was the culmination of days of contamination of the environment and that it was 'absolutely unacceptable' for factory managements to behave as if everything were just fine.

MORE THAN 15,000 BIODEGRADABLE BAGS DISTRIBUTED IN THE CENTRE OF VRANJE

Vranje, 28 November 2009 (Beta) – As part of a campaign to replace plastic bags with biodegradable ones, more than 15,000 biodegradable bags were given until midday to those who brought plastic bags to the centre of Vranje. Igor Andonov, Deputy Mayor, stated that the campaign to replace plastic bags with biodegradable ones would continue until stocks last, and that there would be similar campaigns aimed at educating the citizens and eventually prohibiting the use of plastic bags. According to a 2008 decision of the City Council, this prohibition will come into force in October next year.

RUSSIANS WANT TO BUILD A POWER PLANT IN SERBIA

Novi Sad, 30 November 2009 (B92) – Governments of Russia and Serbia are in the midst of serious discussions about building a nuclear power plant in Serbia, said Alexander Konuzin, the Russian Ambassador. 'A nuclear power plant in Serbia is being considered very seriously,' said Konuzin, adding that Serbia wanted to become an energy exporter since it did have the resources for it, and that Russia was ready to help through joint investment partnerships. Konuzin said that Serbia recently agreed with Germany and Italy to build hydro-power plants, and that there were experts working to modernise Djerdap I plant, and that Russia was willing to build more hydro-power plants in Serbia.

Croatia

NEW ON THE INTERNET: PIKA AND FRIENDS

The Kneja association from Čakovec launched Pika and Friends, an education and information portal (<http://pikaiprijateljji.com>). Plenty of interesting education materials for children and adults!

examples:

A brochure on '10,000 Trees – An Offer for a Practical Solution to the Climate Problem'. http://pikaiprijateljji.com/site/modules/mastop_publish/?tac=127

10-minute cartoon 'The Story of Cap & Trade' presents a very simple overview of key economic and environmental problems. Available with Croatian subtitles at: <http://pikaiprijateljji.com/site/modules/news/article.php?storyid=46>

The same issue is covered by 'Global Warming and Green Dollars', a text (translated to Croatian) available at: <http://metro-portal.hr/vijesti/iza-ogledala/globalno-zatopljenje-i-zeleni-dolari>

news in brief

October: Two workshops on cleaner production held in Split. (http://www.sunce-st.org/eko.php?category=projekti&blob_id=726&lang=hr)

12-14 November, the first international renewable energy fair entitled 'Cro Eco Energy Expo' held in Varaždin. Small investors complained about bad experiences with access to loans, slow administration, ambiguous legislation, etc.

http://www.radovi.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=677

During November, a debate was held on environmental impact of the planned LNG terminal on the island of Krk. An integral study available online (<http://www.adria-lng.hr/>). The Green Istria association published a series of objections (<http://www.zelena-istra.hr/?q=hr/node/498>).

Citizens and civic associations announced that they would continue to fight against the Rockwool stone wool production plant in Potpičan, covered in the previous issue of *Agenda*. During a TV presentation, they threw numerous questions on this issue at the presidential candidates. However, on 11 December, the Municipal Court in Rijeka delivered a non-enforceable judgement against Josip Anton Rupnik, president of the Green Party – Green Alternative, on the basis of a charge brought against Rockwool for an alleged defamation and misrepresentation of Rockwool as a polluter of Pićan. Should this judgement become final, Rupnik would have to pay Rockwool a total of 40,000 Kuna, compensate for the costs of the litigation and finance the publication of the judgement in daily newspapers. [http://www.hrt.hr/index.php?id=48&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=38&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=56279&cHash=ae093ed752](http://www.hrt.hr/index.php?id=48&tx_ttnews[backPid]=38&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=56279&cHash=ae093ed752)

A campaign launched by the "NE Kaštijun" civic initiative (<http://www.ne-kastijun.org/>), the Green Istria association and the Municipality of Medulin, against the construction of the County Waste Management Centre of Istria County in Kaštijun, continues. 6,320 signatures have been collected against EBRD financing.

The Zagreb energy consultancy Enerkon prepared a project for a solar thermal plant, using experiences from Spain and Portugal. The plant may be built near Knin and Croatian companies can produce almost all the equipment needed for this project. (<http://www.poslovni.hr/132969.aspx>)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

NEW LICENCES FOR POWER PRODUCTION

Mostar, 5 November 2009 – At its meeting held on 5 November in Mostar, the FBiH Regulatory Commission for Electric Power issued two power production licences: for 'MIMS d.o.o.', a company from Sarajevo, for production in the mini hydro-plant on the Čemernica River in the Pale-Prača municipality, and to 'GRID d.o.o.' from Sarajevo, for the Mujada mini hydro-plant on the Prusačka River in Donji Vakuf. These plants will improve the percentage of renewable sources in the total power consumption in the Federation BiH, which is a positive change towards fulfilling the conditions set by the Energy Community Treaty, signed by BiH.

PROMOTION OF ECOLOGY AND TOURISM

Pale, 30 November 2009 – 'Jahorinafest 2009', the Third International Festival of Film on Ecology and Tourism opened in Pale with the screening of *13 Plus*, a Bulgarian film. By 2 December, the official selection of the competition programme showed a total of 65 films from 25 countries.

STRENGTHENING ENERGY EFFICIENCY THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Sarajevo, 30 November 2009 – The Network of Public-Private Partnership of Southeast Europe was officially launched in Sarajevo, under the auspices of the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council. The first working meeting of the Network brought together experts in public-private partnership from across Southeast Europe, in order to agree on the implementation of selected cross-border projects through public-private partnerships. Priority will be given to projects aimed at improving energy efficiency, transport infrastructure and environmental protection.

PROTESTS AGAINST THE DESTRUCTION OF A MEASURING STATION

Sarajevo, 30 November 2009 – Renewable Energy Sources Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of FBiH condemned the recent deliberate destruction of the measuring station, used for investigating sun and wind potentials in the area of Mostar, specifically the Podveležje region. 'This is an act aimed at hindering and discouraging researchers and potential investors to develop projects based on solar and wind energy. In this case, this was done by a Committee member – Energy 3, a company from Mostar – which has already had its central measurement equipment stolen', said the Committee.



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protest in the atrium of the Bella Centre. in front: Nnimmo Bassey (Nigeria), the international chairman of the Friends of the Earth

overview of key internet sources of information in Serbia

news and information

<http://www.ekoforum.org>

The principal aim of **EkoForum** is to provide better information on environmental issues, by working with journalists and the media, institutions and experts, environmental civil society organisations, as well as the business sector.

<http://www.beta.rs/zelenasrbija/>

Zelena Srbija is an Internet portal providing the latest news in issues related to the environment and sustainable development.

<http://www.energetika.in.rs/>

Energetika is an Internet portal that brings together energy industry stakeholders from across the world. Here you can discuss the latest trends in the oil industry, the energy market, ecology, renewable energy sources, or environmental protection.

<http://www.seenergy.org>

A web page that provides an integral overview of member states and their energy institutions, involved in building the Energy Association of Southeast Europe. Access to this portal is by subscription only.

<http://www.ecotopia.rs/>

Fond Ecotopia was founded by the desire and the needs of individuals and companies who realised that only joint effort can allow them to deal with the ever-growing ecological problems in Serbia and the world.

<http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/>

Belgrade Human Rights Centre is a non-partisan, non-political and non-profit association of citizens interested in improving the theory and practice of human rights. This website provides information on events and developments in the field of human rights.

<http://www.pescanik.net/>

The key project of the **Peščanik** media production company is the radio-show entitled **Peščanik**, aired on Radio B92 since 2 February 2000. It is a one-hour programme with an intro by Svetlana Lukić, followed by interviews and documentary reports. Those who cannot receive it by radio can find more information at this website.

photo: Vedran Horvat



non-governmental organisations

<http://www.ceeweb.org>

CEEWEB – A network of non-governmental organisations across Central and Eastern Europe, focused on preserving biodiversity.

<http://www.ambassadors-env.org/>

Ambassadors of the Environment, a non-profit organisation, runs projects to provide consultancy and advisory services in different areas of sustainable development and environmental protection, as well as training in advocacy, lobbying, strategic planning, campaign management, environmental diplomacy and waste management.

<http://www.seswa-srbija.com>

Serbian Solid Waste Management Association – SeSWA is a consortium of stakeholders interested in promoting sustainable development and implementing sustainable waste management projects.

<http://www.oplanetise.com/index.php>

Campaign to remove garbage depots in Serbia.

<http://www.bec.org.rs>

Belgrade Ecology Centre is a civic, non-partisan, non-profit organisations dedicated to promotion and implementation of programs aimed at protecting and improving the environment.

<http://www.greenbikevaljevo.org>

The environmental cycling association **Green Bike** was established on 8 December 2003, primarily to raise the environmental morale in Serbia and particularly to promote environmental solidarity.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=192151280342>

Green List Serbia is a network of local environmental NGO's, launched by the Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) in late 2007.

<http://www.zelenamreza.org>

Green Network Vojvodina promotes and supports environmental protection and sustainable development at local, regional, national and international levels.

<http://www.zelenaomladina.org/>

Green Youth is a group of young enthusiasts actively working on promoting green ideas, educating the population and drawing the public attention to environmental issues and sustainable development. Member of FYEG.

<http://www.zelenainicijativa.com/>

Green Initiative is a movement that develops and promotes green sustainable policies.

<http://www.vojvodjanskazelenainicijativa.org.rs/>

Green Initiative Vojvodina is a civic initiative, a non-partisan, non-profit and non-governmental association, working to raise environmental and civic awareness of the responsibility for the state of the environmental and the state of democracy in local communities.

<http://www.pokretgorana.org.rs/>

Pokret gorana is a non-governmental organisation founded in 1960 with the aim of bringing youth together to take part in different forestation activities. This is the forerunner of environmental movements in Serbia.

<http://www.mis.org.rs/>

Young Researchers of Serbia is a unique non-profit, non-governmental, non-partisan organisation that youth can join voluntarily, in order to work on common interests, ideas and goals.

<http://www.cekor.org/>

Centre for Ecology and Sustainable Development (CEKOR), a non-governmental environmental organisation with an office in Subotica. Their current activities include sustainable transport, combating nuclear plants, issues of displacement of the Roma population.

<http://stara-planina.rs/index.php>

Environmental protection organisation Stara Planina was founded in Pirot in 1996, with the aim of protecting and improving the quality of life, promoting creativity and innovation, preventing further pollution and destruction of soil, water, earth and food in Serbia, particularly working to improve the ecological conditions in the area of Stara Planina.

<http://www.bcif.org/>

Balkan Community Initiatives Fund is a local fund that moves people to become actively involved in improving the quality of life in areas where they live.

<http://www.fens.org.rs/index.htm>

FeNS – Federation of NGO's is the most numerous network of non-governmental organisations – it currently brings together 550 member organisations from 102 municipalities across Serbia.

<http://www.proconcept.rs/>

ProConcept was founded in June 2004, with the aim of improving NGO work and developing the capacities of NGO's and other non-profit organisations and their leaders to play active roles in the public life in Serbia.

<http://www.hlc-rdc.org/>

Humanitarian Law Centre (HLC) helps societies in post-Yugoslavian countries in establishing the rule of law and in accepting the legacy of massive human rights violations during the armed conflicts, in order to prevent a repetition of such events, to bring the perpetrators to account and to see justice done.



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<http://www.womenngo.org.rs/>

Autonomous Women's Centre promotes women's human rights and the right to a life without violence, as well as civil society development.

<http://www.gradjanske.org/>

In May 1996, a group of well-established NGO activists involved in anti-war movement and non-nationalist democratic opposition, established Civic Initiatives, an association for democracy and civic education.

http://www.helsinki.org.rs/serbian/index_s.html

Helsinki Human Rights Committee in Serbia

<http://www.yucom.org.rs/index.php>

Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights

<http://www.protecta.org.rs>

PROTECTA was founded by participants of the 1996-1997 student protests in Niš, with the aim of guiding future activities so as to focus youth energy towards positive social action at local and national levels.

<http://www.endemit.org.rs/>

Endemit environmental association was established in March 2000 by students of ecology and environmental protection at the Faculty of Biology of the University of Belgrade.

Government Institutions and Organisations

<http://www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs/>

Ministry for Human and Minority Rights

<http://www.ekoplan.gov.rs/src/index.php>

Ministry for Environmental Protection and Physical Planning

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/>

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water

<http://www.mem.sr.gov.yu/>

Ministry of Mining and Energy

<http://www.aers.org.yu/>

Energy Agency

<http://www.sepa.sr.gov.yu/>

Serbian Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.natureprotection.org.rs/>

Serbian Institute for Protection of Nature

<http://www.eko.vojvodina.sr.gov.yu/>

Secretariat for Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

