



COMBATING
CLIMATE CHANGE
MAINTAINING
MOMENTUM

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Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to you as a cross party grouping of MEPs and former MEPs who believe the European Parliament must continue to play an important role in promoting action by the EU on climate change, holding Member States and the Commission to account.

There is an urgent need for action to combat climate change globally and within Europe; projections as to the extent of impact, speed and intensity are ever worsening. Whilst the nature of impacts will vary across Europe, no country will be immune from the pressures this global process will exert.

During the 2004-2009 term the European Parliament actively promoted and successfully improved EU climate policy, including taking a key role in the negotiation of the package of EU Climate and Energy legislation. This was achieved despite the limited ambitions of the Commission and considerable pressure from the Council.

It is essential now to maintain momentum, increasing ambition and promoting much needed and continued measures on climate – agreement of the Climate and Energy package was an important achievement but this is the beginning of the solution not its conclusion.

We hope that throughout the 2009-2014 term MEPs will continue to show leadership on climate change, ensuring protection for our fellow citizens, future generations of Europeans and providing a basis for sustainable, successful, low carbon economies worldwide.

It is important for all MEPs, no matter what their political background or interests, to understand: the urgency with which we need to act; the challenge climate change poses to Europe; the policies available to support action; and future needs.

Having been active on climate and energy issues we support the briefing material developed by the Institute for European Environmental Policy, offering an independent perspective on all these issues and a starting point for future debate.

With our warmest wishes

Yours sincerely,

Inés Ayala Sender, MEP
Spain, S&D

Catherine Bearder, MEP
UK, ALDE

Chris Davis, MEP
UK, ALDE

Karl Heinz Florenz, MEP
Germany, EPP

Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, MEP
Netherlands, ALDE

Fiona Hall, MEP
UK, ALDE

Satu Hassi, MEP
Finland, Green

Jean Lambert, MEP
UK, Green

Jo Leinen, MEP
Germany, S&D

Peter Liese, MEP
Germany, EPP

Caroline Lucas, MEP
UK, Green

Linda McAvan, MEP
UK, S&D

Bill Newton Dunn, MEP
UK, ALDE

Sirpa Pietikäinen, MEP
Finland, EPP

Vittorio Prodi, MEP
Italy, S&D

Silvia Adriana Țicău, MEP
Romania, S&D

Claude Turmes, MEP
Luxembourg, Green

Graham Watson MEP
UK, ALDE

Dorette Corbey, Former MEP
Netherlands, PSE

Avril Doyle, Former MEP
Ireland, EPP

Anders Wijkman, Former MEP
Sweden, EPP



London Office
15 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9BU, UK
+44 (0)20 7799 2244

Brussels Office
Quai au Foin, 55/ Hooikaai 55
1000 Brussels, Belgium

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Launch and Support

Electronic versions of the IEEP's briefing '**Supporting Europe's Parliamentarians**' in '**Combating Climate Change – Maintaining Momentum**' and key climate related reference materials can be found at www.ieep.eu/briefingsonclimate.

The briefing is available online in Bulgarian, Czech, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Romanian and Spanish.

IEEP hopes to offer ongoing support on climate policy issues to MEPs and their assistants. A series of lunchtime workshops, run in collaboration with GLOBE EU, will offer a forum for MEPs to debate key issues of importance including:

- The urgency of climate action and the challenge this poses for the Copenhagen conference
- Copenhagen outcomes and the possible triggering of a 30 per cent emission reduction commitment
- Delivering EU leadership - future policy priorities for Europe

A parallel training series will be run from October onwards exclusively in support of MEP assistants.

About IEEP

IEEP is an independent not for profit institute dedicated to advancing an environmentally sustainable Europe.

IEEP's diverse research team have expertise in climate policy, focusing both on mitigation and adaptation challenges. Since 2003 IEEP has worked for the European Parliament (Directorate General for Internal Policies, Directorate A - Economic and Scientific Policy) under three successive framework contracts offering independent support to MEPs sitting on the ENVI Committee. More broadly the Institute also conducts research into Europe's efforts to promote climate action, helping to define future policy steps and best practice approaches to implementation.

Past research conducted for the European Parliament on climate policies includes:

- Burden Sharing – impact of climate change mitigation policies on growth and jobs, Study for the Temporary CLIM Committee
- "Limiting Global Climate Change to 2°C: the way ahead for 2020 and beyond" Workshop and Analysis for the ENVI Committee
- Linking the EU's Emissions Trading System to any Future US Emissions Trading Scheme, Study for the ENVI Committee
- A review of the EU ETS, workshop for the ENVI Committee
- The European Commission's proposal to include aviation into the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, Workshop and Analysis for the ENVI Committee
- An overview of global greenhouse gas emissions and emissions reduction scenarios for the future, Study for the ENVI Committee
- Climate change-induced water stress and its impact on natural and managed ecosystems, Study for the ENVI Committee
- Water Scarcity and Droughts, Study for the ENVI Committee
- "Carbon Capture and Storage", Workshop assessing the Commission's proposal for the ENVI Committee
- National legislation, initiatives and programmes on climate change, Review for the ENVI Committee
- Land Degradation and Desertification, Study for the ENVI Committee
- Energy and Climate Change in Russia – Study for the Temporary CLIM Committee

Full versions of all reports and analysis can be found online at <http://www.ieep.eu/briefingsonclimate>

For further details please contact Catherine Bowyer, cbowyer@ieep.eu