



# NEWSLETTER

October  
2009

## Chairman's Foreword

Dear YES-DC members,

Congratulations to you all, with the 15th anniversary of YES-DC.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your enthusiasm and involvement over the years. And a special thanks to all our former board members who have been active throughout these years to keep this unique organization going. Thanks! Up to the next 15 years of YES-DC.

Well here it is; the second newsletter of 2009. Also this time we have got some nice information for you. We are looking back at the outdoor activity in the Garzweiler Open Cast Mine in Germany and we look forward with a story of one of our members abroad.

Enjoy reading and we hope to see you at our next activity.

Best regards,  
Maarten Mangnus

PS. Please check our website [www.yes-dc.org](http://www.yes-dc.org), it will be brand new very soon!!!

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### Colophon

The Newsletter is distributed by YES-DC to their members. Subscription is free of charge and the newsletter can also be downloaded from our website. For any further questions or suggestions feel free to contact us.

**Website:** [www.yes-dc.org](http://www.yes-dc.org)

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# YES-DC visits the Garzweiler Open Cast Mine

Author: Martin Boon

Pictures: Christiaan de Pous

Did you know that one of Europe's largest Energy conglomerates, RWE is actually in the relocation business?! By just looking at the picture the Garzweiler mine area you can see what RWE is relocating: land, roads, villages, the whole landscape basically. You can probably imagine what a massive project this must be.



The Garzweiler opencast mine has certainly impressed the YES-DC members who went for a visit to this mine in the end of August. Almost everyone pulled out his digital camera, and here you see some of the best pictures our camera crew shot that day. If you also want to see analogue pictures, then you should consult Chris, our DEO-Day man, for a quick peak in his photo album.

For more information about the Garzweiler opencast mine

[www.rwe.com/web/cms/mediablob/en/12072/data/17906/306/rwe/responsibility/energy-climate/security-of-supply/power-generation-structure/en-Garzweiler-opencast-mine.pdf](http://www.rwe.com/web/cms/mediablob/en/12072/data/17906/306/rwe/responsibility/energy-climate/security-of-supply/power-generation-structure/en-Garzweiler-opencast-mine.pdf)



# Challenges and perspectives of the climate process towards Copenhagen

Author<sup>1</sup>: Edgar Hernan Cruz Martinez<sup>2</sup>

In the middle of the economic crisis, the acceleration in climate variability and the slow pace of the negotiations, what can be the outcome in Copenhagen?

Despite the growing level of meetings, negotiations rounds and political declarations, the substance of the climate change agreement still needs to be agreed (“who does what and who pays for it”). Some of the areas that make it difficult to reach a consensus are:

- The integration of mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development actions in a balanced way<sup>3</sup> regarding commitments, financial support, technology development and institutions, because some parties claim that mitigation is only a problem of emissions reductions without further consideration for the sustainable development consequences of such actions.
- The high levels of uncertainty for the adaptation effort. What should be the level of adaptation and how not to waste the scarce resources available in “wrong” adaptations actions? How to respond to large scale migration and disaster management? This will depend on how fast mitigation actions are implemented and how the climate system react.
- The lack of ambition of some Annex I countries to pledge emissions reductions targets that meet science recommendations (especially the US administration is having difficulties to pass climate legislation in the congress). Positive developments are the recent announcements by the new Japanese Prime Minister to reach 25% emission reductions by 2020 compared with year 1990.
- The role of China, India, Brazil and South Africa: These parties consider that an agreement which fulfills the convention principle should assure that Annex I countries assume historical responsibility for their past emissions<sup>4</sup>. At the same time annex I parties consider that a climate agreement will only operate if the big emerging economies adopt some type of targets (probably intensity targets in the next commitment period), however, these countries are taking initiative on climate change and greening their economic growth. This initiative is reflected in the formulation of climate policies and strategies and for example China recently offered a strong reduction of emissions intensity by 2020 compared with business as usual.

<sup>1</sup> The opinions expressed by the author are personal and do not reflect Ecotys or YES-DC opinions

<sup>2</sup> Energy and Strategies Consultant – Ecofys

<sup>3</sup> Conceptually, mitigation will allow the building of a low carbon society; adaptation should reach a climate resilient development and sustainable development will allow poverty eradication and the possibility of development for futures generations.

<sup>4</sup> As an example, in the recent submission for amendment of the Kyoto Protocol, almost 40 non annex I countries (among them China, India, Brazil and South Africa), are calling the recognition of emissions from the period 1850 to 2005 to be accounted in the target setting procedure.

<sup>5</sup> Given all the financial, technology transfer and capacity building necessary to support non annex I parties.

If the dream agreement in Copenhagen is science driven and provides a comprehensive and coherent framework and procedures for the effective implementation of the Climate Change Convention<sup>5</sup> (based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities), the real agreement, is likely to mild the science recommendations given by IPCC to adopt a political "acceptable" text. This will increase the risk of irreversible damage for most vulnerable parties (small islands states and least developed countries) as future action can be too little and too late.

Besides, it is expected that the new agreement will balance the public intervention mechanisms (like the global fund proposed by Mexico, regulations, taxes) and the market based mechanisms that were the backbone of the Kyoto agreements. This switch seems coherent with the public driven response to the consequences of the global economic crisis and also to solve the serious limitations of the market based mechanisms to tackle climate change (regional distribution and limited sustainable development in the CDM). In this sense it is expected that a reformed CDM and the Emissions Trading scheme will continue to play a role in the post 2012 regime together with new instruments such as NAMAs, sectoral approaches among others.

Finally, without strong high level political leadership, negotiators will lack the clear political guidance to reach consensus and compromise in order to reach agreements. If developed countries governments were able to prepare a coordinated response to the huge scale of the economic and financial crisis, why the same countries are not able to send the same type of bold message to the climate process to consolidate the transition towards a low carbon economy by the redefinition of development and economic growth on green basis?

### **Actions beyond the convention**

The previous discussions on complexities of the negotiations and its possible outcomes suggest that the climate agreement will not fill the gap between the required level of emissions reductions (based on science) and parties' pledges. This situation open another question: Are there alternatives beyond a deep and prolonged recession (combined with an intensive swine flu pandemic) in order to fill such gap? In that sense a more active role of different stakeholders leading initiatives is fundamental: e.g. which local governments will allow only the circulation of electric power vehicles after 2020 inside their? How many people will effectively reduce beef consumption? At the end, the Copenhagen agreement will be successful if it is able to trigger bold action on climate change by parties and by people around the planet regardless the details of the text.

Interested in going to Copenhagen?

The COP (Conference of Parties) meeting will be from 7 December to 18 December 2009 and its goal is to establish an ambitious global climate agreement for the period from 2012 when the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol expires.

We are planning an excursion to this very important event. If you're interested in joining us in visiting the UNFCCC meeting in Copenhagen send us an email at: [secretariaat.yesdc@gmail.com](mailto:secretariaat.yesdc@gmail.com).

YES-DC as an NGO holds an observer party registration, which entitles us to delegate a group of our members.