

ECCO



Eco has been published by Non-Governmental Environmental Groups at major international conferences since the Stockholm Environment Conference in 1972. This issue is produced co-operatively by CAN groups attending COP6 bis in Bonn, July 2001.

To boldly go...

Delegates wandering the decks of the Starship Maritim once again might wonder whether this episode is ever going to end. Instead of taking the jump to light speed, the negotiations seem to be caught in a time warp. Will delegates rescue Captain Kyoto from the clutches of Bush and his deadly klingers-on? Will carbon-toting saboteurs succeed in the engine room? Will procedural stun guns be decommissioned in time? Will Japan beam up to the moral high ground? Will the planet be saved for the Next Generation?

The Intrepid Eco has travelled through space and time to bring you this message of hope:

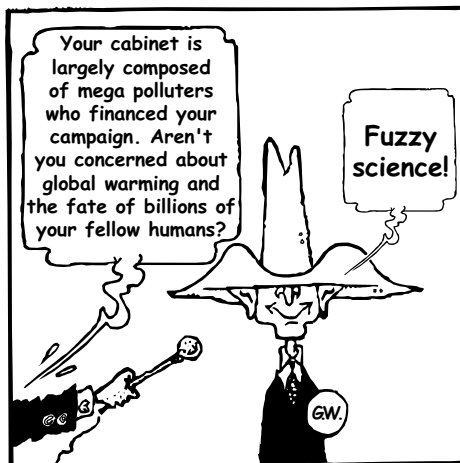
Bush and the Evil Empire are surrounded. The forces of darkness can no longer sabotage your mission. You can make the jump to light speed. Operation Rescue can commence.

Now that the US has made itself irrelevant to the negotiations, the remaining Parties should feel liberated. If they stop listening to Canada and Australia, there is even more room for serious negotiations. A deal is within reach. The EU, G77 and Japan are not exactly textbook superheroes. But if they summon up the courage, they have a real opportunity to make the Protocol work.

Overwhelming public support for decisive action cannot be ignored. We must not leave empty handed. Armed with an environmentally effective Protocol, Parties can expect success in bringing round recalcitrant governments whose public will demand to know why they failed to face up to their responsibilities.

The only way to make the Protocol work is to preserve its environmental integrity and ensure rapid entry into force. This can still be done. Climate superheroes, dust off your cloaks! You have nothing to fear...

This article will self-destruct in five seconds.



G77 taking the reins

Given the atmosphere of near-frustration, this Conference needed an injection of vision and leadership. This was provided by the chair of the G77 and China yesterday at the opening plenary. Congratulations, Mr Salamat!

Calling on all States to act responsibly and to move beyond the impasse of The Hague, Mr Salamat made it clear that the G77 and China remain committed to the Kyoto Protocol, despite US withdrawal. He expressed determination to finish "the journey started 10 years ago" and to deliver on the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, while recognising the great political challenges this Conference is facing.

After his short but pointed intervention, observers were left in no doubt about two things. One, the G77 is stronger and more resolute than it has been for a long time, and two, no modifications to the Kyoto Protocol or the timeframe will be accepted.

Non-G77 Parties should now also be clear that the G77 is not interested just in "traditional" developing country issues - in Mr Salamat's own words: the interests of the G77 and China are "broader than just finance, technology transfer etc.". This is reflected in the responsibilities assigned by the President to facilitate the first days of negotiations. The majority of the chairs of the working groups are from developing countries with a particularly strong team leading the mechanisms group.

However, the G77 and China is a diverse group and while it is clear that the obstructive forces within the Group are increasingly marginalized, some decisions might not be immediately obvious to outsiders. In such cases, States that want to build alliances with the G77 should show the Group more respect and work

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Fair go mate

With Senator Hill arriving yesterday, the full Australian delegation is now in Bonn. But what is their purpose in being here? When the EU delegation visited Sydney recently, Hill explicitly stated that Australia would not ratify the Kyoto Protocol without the US. And the US says it will not ratify. A clear case of staying home, one would assume?

The Australians have become well known for their hard-line bargaining and brinkmanship. They may well have gotten too used to that role to abandon it now. The 108% target from Kyoto and Article 3.7 (the Australia clause) are existing examples of the bastardy we have witnessed before from one of the world's biggest per capita emitters.

So what is their strategy here in Bonn? Given that they have no intention to ratify, surely they will sit quietly simply as observers. Or will they join the US and Canada and try to obstruct Parties who are committed to making progress towards ratification and preventing

dangerous climate change?

Will the Australians continue to insist on targets for developing countries, despite the clear intent of the Convention and the Berlin Mandate? Will they act as the water carriers for the nuclear industry, breathing life into a dying industry via the CDM? Will they argue for sinks loopholes big enough to count the whole wide brown land? Will they leave their low-lying neighbours in the Pacific to suffer the consequences of sea level rise while they protect their fossil fuel industries?

Whatever the Australians do at this meeting, we can be assured they are not going to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. After all, Hill is only doing the bidding of his industry-captured, climate-sceptic colleagues back in Australia.

And that raises the final question. Will the other Parties to the Kyoto Protocol allow themselves to be mugged by Australia's negotiators again, or can they give the Australians what they deserve - nothing?

—G77 taking the reins, from front page

with it on the basis of trust. These countries should realise that G77 countries have already invested a lot of effort and resources into preparing themselves for the Kyoto Protocol. To spell it out - the time has come for the EU to stop talking amongst themselves and to actively negotiate with G77 partners. Clarification on finance and institutional issues from the G77 and China would help both sides to begin this dialogue.

Resolving the Kyoto issues here in Bonn will enable developing countries to use the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 to press ahead on other crucial issues such as desertification, biodiversity and food security that will otherwise be overshadowed by climate change. This seems to be clear to the overwhelming majority of G77 countries. The few that still trade off short term revenues against the future of their children must eventually listen to the majority. Deeds must now follow words. You can get it done.

New: "Fossil of the Century" award

We never thought it would happen, but in April 2001 some Texas Cowboys forced us to admit that there are behavioural patterns for which our fossil-of-the-day award is hopelessly inadequate.

Bush, who has rejected the Kyoto Protocol completely, and whose fossilised thinking is a serious danger to the future of our planet has obliged us to bestow him with a new award: "Fossil of the Century".

So that lesser fossils earn the recognition that is their due, we have decided to exclude this "Fossil of the Century" from further participation in the fossil of the day award for the duration of COP6 bis. Check screens for evening awards.

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"e-mission 55" reception today: all invited

Today the more than 130 international businesses that comprise the "e-mission 55" initiative called for rapid ratification of the Kyoto Protocol - well knowing that the US is not on board.

"e-mission 55" invites all participants at COP6 bis to a reception to be held today at 6 p.m. at the Deutsche Telekom building, a 5 minutes walk from the Maritim.

The European Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future, GERMANWATCH and WWF support "e-mission 55".

BACK TO THE FUTURE

- ECO REVISITED, 10 YEARS AFTER -

Bush rejects IPCC on sea-level rise.

Sea-level rise is so uncertain that it poses minimal concern, President Bush is understood to have told leaders of Pacific Island States last week. Bush addressed 10 Heads of State at an environment summit called to discuss global warming...

The leaders pointed to the findings of IPCC on sea-level rise, and were perplexed when Bush rejected them, saying "my scientists are telling me something different to that." (ECO#7, SWCC, 5th November 1990)

Ludwig

After the sterling role NGOs have played in past negotiations, COP6 bis seems to be organised so as to exclude them as much as possible from the working sessions. Ludwig has stumbled across further plans being considered by President Pronk. The Netherlands has proposed that NGOs be involved, but only so long as their activities are implemented in another country. The Canadians have a proposal to encase NGO participants in glass and concrete, and bury them for 10,000 years. Meanwhile, the US has objected on the grounds that NGOs have not been proven to exist. President Bush has committed \$15 to a 10 year study to investigate the concept of NGOs and report back on possible measures to eliminate them.

THANKS

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