The Review is sometimes thought of as a minor agenda item. ECO does not agree. It reincorporates scientific findings in the political UNFCCC negotiations in order to raise ambition and close the gigatonne gap. So, negotiators, if you happened to forget its significance, this is a reminder to pay sufficient attention to the discussion on the first periodic Review (2013-15).

At COP18, we need several decisions on the Review – most of all a decision on its scope, but also on the modalities. Modalities would include the body to conduct the Review and a finalized workplan for a timely start, effective work and strong recommendations in 2015. The workplan must not be forgotten over contradicting views on the scope (reviewing 2°C or reviewing the long-term global goal and the process towards achieving it (as phrased in Cancun) or moving to the means of implementation). Mexico yesterday suggested bridging the differing views on the scope by starting with the Cancun language and possibly later further defining the scope. Gracias, Mexico!

In case Parties, at a later point in time, seek to consider reviewing the means of implementation, ECO suggests inserting a chapeau in the coming draft decision on the scope, referring to the different reviews in the Cancun and Durban decisions on finance, technology, capacity building and biennial reporting. These various decisions to review the means of implementation have already been taken, so that there is no need to duplicate this undertaking in the first periodic review (2013-2015). A better approach would be to strengthen all reviews by linking the first periodical Review to the other review processes. This would make them more powerful at all ends.

In summary, ECO is confident that it is possible to find a way out of the present stalemate concerning the review 2013-2015, so that the review can begin in 2013.

ECO appreciated the chair's facilitation of yesterday's spin-off group, moving the discussion to the modalities, such as the potential expert group that would conduct the Review and first steps in organising the work starting next year.

Of course, ECO already has its own perceptions and milestones in mind for the 2013-2015 Review roadmap:

1) Beginning in 2013 with a workshop on the Special Reports of IPCC (SRREN and SREX) at SB38
2) A subsequent workshop back-to-back to the adoption of AR5/WG I of IPCC at the COP in 2013, where conclusions on WG I-related issues for the Review will be drawn.
3) In May 2014 there should be a second workshop back-to-back to the adoption of AR5/WG III (including WG II related issues), so that...
4) SB40 in June 2014 could draw conclusions on it
5) After adoption of the Synthesis Report of AR5, a workshop could be planned
6) The COP in 2014 should take note of this analytical phase of the review and take a decision on the envisaged steps on the Review for 2015 that lead to action
7) In 2014/15 the political analysis should take place
8) To ensure action in 2015, SB 42 should write a draft decision on the action the COP should take on the basis of the review

All these activities should inform the other, above-mentioned review processes to create small but powerful tools for avoiding dangerous climate change.

CAN Classifieds
Beautiful but totally isolated country in central Europe desperately seeks a friend with a common interest in coal. Our present so-called friends do not appreciate our tradition of carrying forward iconic things even if they are worthless. They do not understand that possessing the biggest European lignite deposit obliges us to make use of it. They even criticise our veto of EU climate ambition, which we must admit may sometimes seem like an addiction. Seeking new friends with common interests across the Atlantic or in OPEC, but preferably from the EU, so that they join us in our next veto of ambition at the June Energy Council. Mailbox: P000
LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME for a large, Polish-speaking country. Due to biting, aggressive and possessive behaviour over coal and hot air, E.U. is looking for a new home for one of its members. Suitable for a family that does not plan to have children. Free. Mailbox: E27U

Parties: One classified FREE with every US$1 billion contributed to the GCF!

From the Archives

ECO was recently combing through its archives, looking for a lost hotel bar tab from the Bonn COP it was hoping it could still be reimbursed for. No such luck, but it did find this gem of an article from Marrakesh in October 2001.

Like an old secondary school yearbook, while the haircuts may have changed, the personalities are much the same. ECO expects that, when Parties look back at themselves today in another decade, they and we will instead be pleased at how much they have matured.

Until then, ECO has some great NGO Party adverts it will happily run again.

ICAO stuck in bunker

SUBSTA missed yet another opportunity yesterday to take action on bunker fuels (i.e. fuels used for international transport). At 3.5 per cent per year, emissions from aviation constitute the fastest growing greenhouse gas emission sector worldwide. Yet they are not included in Climate Convention (CC) or Kyoto commitments, Parties do not have to report on them and they are tax-free. This clearly is an outrage.

After years of dithering, and a damning IPCC report on the harmful effects of air transport, the body nominally responsible for the regulation of international aviation, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), announced yesterday it would be a good idea to have a cap and trade scheme for aviation emissions — provided it is “an open one across economic centres”.

What ICAO has overlooked is that advanced plans for such a scheme already exist. It is known as the Kyoto Protocol emissions trading scheme. It already has agreed on caps (obviating the need to negotiate new ones) and it enables participants to trade across all economic sectors except, at present, international aviation and marine transport.

A golden opportunity was thus missed. All that was needed yesterday was for SUBSTA to have a short debate on the allocation of emissions from international transport to individual countries. (The debate could have been very short because there is only one practical option: allocation of emissions to the point of sale of the fuel.) ICAO could then have agreed to include aviation-related emissions under the Kyoto cap.

Seriously, ICAO just had its assembly and only meets every three years. Unless Parties to the CC decide the allocation and cap issues in the next SUBSTA, we could wait long and hard for a solution to be found in ICAO. Even then, discussion in ICAO is likely to get bogged down in disputes amongst vested interests — those are much more entrenched than in SUBSTA.

New Zealand New Zealand New Zealand New Zealand New Zealand

National term of endearment/greeting:  Bro/Mate
Annual alcohol consumption: 9.6 litres per person per year
Annual cheese consumption: 5.7 kilograms per person per year
Best things about New Zealand: Beautiful environment - some of it still unspoiled. Maori Culture. Wine
Worst things about New Zealand: Wanting to be Australia. Addiction to cars. Pathological need to spoil the unspoiled bits
Things you didn't know: New Zealand isn't all clean and green. New Zealand is the first country in the world to catalogue its entire known living and fossil history from 530 million years ago to today
Existing unconditional pledge on the table:  It's all conditional, which means the unconditional pledge is to do nothing.
Existing conditional pledge (upper end):  10-20% reduction in net emissions below 1990 gross emissions levels by 2020
Next step to increase ambition by COP18:  This year: Submit a meaningful QELRO that would require a 40% reduction by 2020; produce a low carbon development plan; tell us when gross emissions will peak; listen to the voices of progressive business leaders and agricultural scientists who can help us get there, rather than the usual head-in-the-sand lobby groups; and get a new attitude.

"CAN Collectibles": Read the Series Again to Spot the Secret Message! Fast Facts About Countries That Can Increase Their Ambition in Qatar

Also Makes a Great Paper Hat!