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After Copenhagen

opportunity for a new climate change policy in Europe and globally

CEEweb for Biodiversity welcomes the high priority climate change has been given for several years in European level as well as globally. Realizing its serious threats, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen provided a historical chance to develop a comprehensive, ambitious and effective climate change deal which was supposed "to shape our common future and that of generations to come, for the better" (as Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary has formulated). However, we were disappointed to conclude that the results of the Conference fell short of these expectations.

Turning off the UN process, the Conference has produced the Copenhagen Accord, a two-and-a-half page long document, which is not legally binding, contains very few concrete, tangible facts and was not even formally adopted, because the majority of the Parties only 'took note' of it. It lacks real commitment and clear conclusions. Although the document says that 'the increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius', and that 'deep cuts in global emissions are required', it contains neither long-term nor mid-term reduction targets in order to achieve these goals, and the proposed time of peak emissions is not set either. The only thing the Accord sets regarding these targets is a timetable for countries to submit details of their emissions reductions commitments and actions by 31 January 2010.

Nevertheless we welcome that the Copenhagen Accord forms a basis for negotiations during 2010 on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, as it recognizes the crucial role of REDD, and agrees on the establishment of the REDD+ mechanism.
Furthermore, we also welcome the statement of the Copenhagen Accord that the collective commitment by developed countries is to provide new and additional resources to address the needs of developing countries; however, we think that the amounts indicated are still underestimated.

CEEweb's asks to the European Commission to address in its climate policy and to represent in the COP 16

In our understanding, GHG emissions, excessive use of natural resources and degradation of natural ecosystems are equivalently important causes of climate change, which means that decreasing our use of energy and natural resources as well as restoring a significant part of our degraded ecosystems should get the same priority in climate change mitigation as cutting our emissions of greenhouse gases. Only in this way of system-thinking can we assure the proper operation of the Earth's complex and interrelated ecological and climate systems, and avoid the trap of end-of-pipe solutions: doing no more than shifting the pressures from one element of the environment to the other. In line with this, we have compiled a list of necessary measures for the EU to include them in its future domestic climate change policy, as well as to clearly represent them in the international negotiations before and during the COP 16 in December 2010, Mexico.

1) We are worried that in the lack of commitment from industrialized countries, the EU is about to decrease its mid-term **emissions reduction target** from 30% to 20%. Bearing in mind that the world is rapidly facing a resource-constrained and volatile future, instead of weakening it, in this situation the EU should adopt an even more ambitious target of 40% reductions below 1990 levels by 2020, achieved by entirely domestic efforts (excl. CDM). For long-term target we think that 80% emissions cut should be targeted by 2050, which practically means that **our fossil fuel use should fall near zero**.

    - To advance this process, revision of current support for fossil energy is necessary, and quotas on fossil energy use should be introduced and traded in the international market (the current CO2 emission quotas could serve as a model for this).

2) If we focus only on emission cuts, the savings due to the various technological solutions can easily be overgrown by the fast increase of needs, and on the other hand, some of these solutions seriously endanger biodiversity and eventually result in even higher emissions (e.g. agrofuels). Therefore, CEEweb asks for a new EU energy policy making it legally binding for the Member States to limit and gradually decrease their **total demand for energy** by 2% annually, until we reach the carrying capacity of Europe.

3) REDD is an important achievement of ecosystem-approach in climate change **mitigation**, but its focus is narrowed on the tropical forests. We are convinced that every well-functioning natural and semi-natural ecosystem has their climate-regulating role, and they are inevitable for mitigation also in Europe. Therefore, we ask for mitigation measures that

    - fully develop and operationalize REDD+ regime, including conservation and the enhancement of carbon stocks in existing forests, not just the sustainable management of forests

    - recognize the value of a range of other ecosystems for capturing and storing carbon, include them in any carbon credit or carbon tax system

- adopt classification criteria and guidance for all activities dealing with nature in terms of carbon market shares as a supportive material for the policy makers

- include CO2 source and sink potentials of all categories of Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry activities (LULUCF) into the aggregate anthropogenic CO2- equivalent emissions

- introduce a 'biodiversity check' of all new renewable energy source (RES) initiatives which might harm biodiversity

4) Ecosystem approach should be applied as a guiding principle in all **adaptation** measures, too. While the mitigation function of ecosystems can be expected on the long term, and happens on the global scale, their adaptation capacity is already performed on the short term and primarily on local and regional levels. Ensuring the best possible operation of ecosystems will protect human populations against climate change to some extent even if the limitation of global CO2 level is failed. However, legally protected areas and ecological networks alone are not likely to be sufficient for the adaptation of biodiversity to climate change. For that more is needed: to re-frame the EU's agricultural and cohesion policy so that our landscapes as a whole would remain or become climate-friendly. CEEweb asks for adaptation measures that

   - Complete the ongoing establishment of ecological corridors and networks

   - rehabilitate natural surface cover on significant part of man-dominated land with a gradual timing

   - implement measures of spatial planning and land use that is strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of ecosystems, e.g. rationalize the current man-made infrastructure which fragments ecosystems; set limits and scientific sound criteria for green-field investments

   - re-structure payments in agriculture and forestry so that instead of favouring intensive farming methods it provides subsidies to the owners of land according to their biodiversity richness in terms of ecosystem services

5) Besides defining its specific targets, an effective climate policy should try to understand and deal with the underlying drivers behind climate change and, at the same time, behind other global crises such as biodiversity loss too. It should clearly aim to modify the **wider policy framework** by assigning the realistic price of energy and natural resources and internalizing the ecosystem services involved (with e.g. a shift in taxation from labour to natural resources and energy, or introducing a quota of natural resources in the market), which could help the transition to a more sustainable economy and seek for new parameters for growth. Production and consumption should be connected to cycles both vertically and horizontally in various points, so that these cycles are harmonized with biogeochemical cycles, and minimize

the waste of material and energy. Eventually both adaptation and mitigation need the same measurements, a new economic macro-structure with lower demand for natural resources and space.
These necessary structural changes should become the guiding principle of the EU 2020 Strategy debate.

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