

Press Release



London, 6th March 2007

Unprecedented NGO Coalition calls for EU Heads of State to deliver on Climate and Energy Security and demonstrate Europe's relevance to its citizens.

In the lead-up to this week's European Council discussions on energy and climate security, a broad coalition of environment, development, human rights and peace building organisations have joined together to call for strong leadership from European heads of state.

This coalition brings together organisations as never before. All members recognise the importance of resolving the challenge of climate and energy security and seek to underline the importance of European action in the search for international solutions. In the run-up to the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, real action to deliver energy and climate security would provide a concrete way to reengage with European citizens and revitalise political support for the European Union.

“Heads of State have a tremendous opportunity to set Europe on a new path that combines energy and climate security into an ambitious common strategy to reduce the instability and risks caused by climate change”, said Jennifer Morgan, director of climate and energy security at E3G. **“In light of the latest science, they cannot afford not to deliver. Climate change needs to become the defining theme of the EU project”.**

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The package of measures being discussed at the end of the week includes a set of targets for climate and energy policies across Europe. It could also push forward a united approach to European energy strategy which has been thus far lacking.

“The Summit offers Europe the chance to speak with one strong voice on energy and climate security”, said Jennifer Morgan, director of climate and energy security at E3G, **“Energy, climate change and a value driven foreign policy are very closely linked. A European Common Energy Policy is a prerequisite for a consistent EU Foreign and Security Policy”**.

The European Council Summit is the first in a series of heads of state discussions on climate and energy security. Next will be the EU-US Summit in Washington on 30 April and the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm on 6-8 June. The European Council Summit will therefore set the level of political ambition for 2007, a crucial year in addressing climate and energy concerns.

Notes to Editors

1. Following below is the text of the letter signed by the broad coalition of environment, development, human rights and peace building organisations.
2. Press contact details are also provided for all participating organisations.
3. E3G is an independent not-for-profit organisation that works in the public interest to accelerate the global transition to sustainable development. Further details are available from www.e3g.org.

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European Federation for
TRANSPORT and ENVIRONMENT



Friends of
the Earth
Europe



global witness

As representatives of European civil society organisations on environment, development, human rights and peacebuilding we are writing to urge the European Council to agree ambitious measures to deliver energy and climate security on March 8-9th.

Resolving the challenge of energy and climate security is central to all our missions. Competition for energy resources increasingly underlies global conflicts, and is undermining democracy and human rights around the world. Climate change is already causing damage in Europe and suffering to poor people in the developing world.

None of this is inevitable. We have the technology and wealth to solve these challenges. We believe that a revitalised Europe is the only power capable of taking the lead in driving the transition to a clean and fair global energy economy. This can provide a truly popular focus for re-engaging European citizens in the project started 50 years ago by the Treaty of Rome.

The European Council must show leadership by agreeing a 30% binding cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, and specific measures to accelerate deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy. The EU must agree to speak with one voice on energy relations with other countries, and maintain fundamental European values on peace and human rights. Serious future action will also be needed to reduce EU oil demand from transport, and must be supported by a major shift in the European budget to support clean and secure energy infrastructure.

Delivering these goals will not happen overnight, and it will require public pressure to overcome vested interests. Our organisations are exploring the potential for building a broad public coalition for action across Europe to move this agenda forward over the coming years.

Signing Organisations

GREENPEACE

International Alert.

 OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE



Quaker
Council for
European
Affairs



swiss
peace



E3G



WWF® *for a living planet*®

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