

## DIALOGUE SEMINAR

### Environmental protection and climate change as a challenge for EU policies – the role of ethics, lifestyles, solidarity and global justice

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#### Panel 2: Climate change and development

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##### Climate (In-) Justice

**Climate Change is one of the greatest global injustices of our times:** It hits first and foremost the poorest and most vulnerable people on this planet who have contributed close to nothing to causing it. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are fueling a global change in climate which, if we follow current trends, will probably lead to a global average temperature increase of more than 4 degrees Celsius, or in the worst case even 6 degrees by the end of this century according to scientists. Even if we stay below 4 degrees, catastrophic, run-away climate change is likely to happen.

Poor people in developing countries cause virtually no emissions, but they suffer most from changes in the climate. While average annual per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in some EU countries surpass 20 tons, they are at 0.12 tons in Mozambique, that is almost 200 times less!

**The changing climate is already felt in many parts of the world, even though we are still at the very beginning:** the Earth has only warmed by about 0.8 degrees since 1880 up to now. But extreme weather events already take place more often and are extremer than they used to be. Droughts and floods affect millions of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America, destroying their houses, their harvests, their livelihoods. Low-lying islands are threatened already by a small increase in the ocean level, but the latest calculations by scientists from around the world gathered in the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change predict up to a meter rise by the year 2100. These nations and cultures are threatened in their very existence. In coastal areas of Bangladesh, tens of millions of people could become climate refugees if the sea rises by one meter.

Around the globe, hundred millions of people are at a direct risk. In addition, even more could suffer from the negative impact of climate change on **food production**. Ocean acidification is advancing at alarming rates, threatening already over-exploited fish stocks. And unpredictable weather destroys the harvest in many parts of the world.

**Climate scientists speak a clear language :** “Our findings support the assertion that we are fundamentally destabilizing our natural systems – we are leaving the world as we know it,” says Wolfgang Lucht, one of the authors of a recent study from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Change. ‘Now this is not a question of ducks and daisies, but of our unique natural heritage, the very basis of life. Therefore, greenhouse-gas emissions have to be reduced substantially, and

soon” adds another co-author, Hans-Joachim Schellenhuber.

**The EU is the second biggest historical emitter of CO2 after the US. At the same time, it is one of the richest regions of the world. The EU has therefore a moral responsibility to act.** It needs to radically cut its own emissions and to help other, more vulnerable and less affluent countries to adapt to the inevitable negative effects of climate change. It should also advocate an international mechanism to deal with the effects of unavoidable loss and damage caused by a changing climate. It should support developing countries at the same time to choose a different, low-carbon pathway to development instead of following our own, life-threatening one.

After the end of the fast-track climate change financing period in 2012, **the EU needs to put a robust plan on the table on how to deliver its fair share of the 100bn dollars promised for climate finance to be provided under the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change. And this should happen very quickly, before or at the latest during the UNFCCC meeting in Warsaw in November.**

Moreover, it needs to **take climate change much more into account in its development cooperation.** Now is the time to go into the details of programming of the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund and the Development Cooperation Instrument for the next 7 years. However, to date, the European Commission Directorate-General in charge of Development Cooperation, EuropeAid, seems not to reflect the threat of climate change sufficiently in its planning:

- The **Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA)**, fostering development projects which feature adaptation to climate change mainstreamed into modern approaches to development seems to have generated good results. Unfortunately, no evaluation has been published to date. And an amount of only 290 million EURO was provided for it over the last years while the needs are much higher.

-In addition, geographical programs are asked to **focus on only two sectors** under the new financial framework, a fact that limits the possibilities for climate change-related programs considerably.

-Also, it seems that the **EU water facility** which is crucial in order to provide access to clean drinking water in times of growing water stress caused by climate change might be abandoned. One billion people face already nowadays water scarcity, according to latest research, another 500 million to one billion will be added over the coming years due to climate change.

I would therefore like to finish with a number of **questions to EuropeAid Director Ridolfi:**

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-Will DG DEVCO **publish its evaluation of the first phase of the GCCA** and discuss it with the public including civil society?

-Will the financing for the **GCCA be considerably increased** in the next financial period 2014-2020?

-How will DG DEVCO ensure that it contributes its share of **20% of the MFF** dedicated to CC?

-**In how many countries has CC been chosen as focal sector** and how many regional programs on CC are envisaged under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF/DCI?

-Will the **water facility be continued** or will there be otherwise growing funds provided for water projects?