



Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy and climate debate

## Newsbit

5 May 2010

for European local governments and their associations

Dear colleagues

Currently, Germany and Mexico are co-hosting a high-level conference in Bonn, Germany on the way towards COP16. More than 40 countries are represented at the Ministerial level.

Further information can be found at

[http://www.bmu.de/english/petersberg\\_conference/doc/45945.php](http://www.bmu.de/english/petersberg_conference/doc/45945.php)

The day before yesterday, outgoing UNFCCC Executive Secretary delivered a very critical speech at the conference. Please find the speech attached.

Yunus ARIKAN, manager of the Cities Climate Center reflects about Yvo de Boer's statement: "I believe his speech [sends] many key messages not just for Ministers, but also for Mayors and local governments who are trying to continue both their mitigation/adaptation work and advocacy efforts under this global political, financial and humanitarian crisis."

De Boer's key messages include:

- In some cases, negotiators were negotiating different positions than their Ministers.
- it may be better not to limit [ministerial] involvement to a "pre-COP" or the last two days of the COP
- Many countries expressed a wish to put the mistakes of Copenhagen behind them.
- To some degree, the lack of trust within the process pre-dates Copenhagen, but Copenhagen perhaps made it worse.
- Industrialized country pledges under the Copenhagen Accord are not ambitious enough to limit the average global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius.
- Additionally, in many cases, significant finance has not come forward.
- This has led developing countries to be hesitant to fully engage in the process and to doubt whether green economic growth is a realistic option.
- At the same time, the process has been over-politicized and may benefit from being somewhat depoliticized. A balance needs to be struck between maintaining political momentum and moderately depoliticizing the process.

"The question that's on everybody's mind, but, unfortunately, on no-one's lips", says the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, is: "What, in all honesty, is the future of the Kyoto Protocol? How would one explain to voters in some industrialized countries, for example, that they have an international legally binding commitment when others do not? The fundamental question then is what will be the benchmark for industrialized country commitments – the commitments other developed nations are willing to make, or the actions of the developing world?"

Indeed, those questions should be kept in mind, when European financial ministers contemplate where to undertake budgets cuts. In parallel to the 'Petersberg conference' Wolfgang Schäuble, Minister of Finance, Germany, decided to stop promotions of solar collectors, biomass heating systems and heat pumps due to the economic crisis. However, according to experts, the 115 million Euro promotion would have triggered 900 million Euro of investments. Furthermore federal promotional support for climate protection projects by local governments have also been put on ice in Germany.

Is your local government experiencing the same? Does your country take a different approach?

Tell us and use LG Action as your voice in the energy and climate debate!

You can send your Positionings via LG Action's online tools ([www.lg-action.eu](http://www.lg-action.eu)). You help formulating Country Reports that are close to your community's needs and send clear messages to your national government as well as the European Commission.

Best wishes

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The LG Action consortium:



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