

Thursday 4 December 2008

## LIVING BEYOND ITS RESOURCES: IMPACTS OF 'GLOBAL EUROPE' ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

European Parliament, Brussels, Room A3G2

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| <b>10:30 – 11:00</b> | <b>Press briefing (Room: Anna Politkovskaya, PHS 0A50, ground floor, PHS)</b> (30')<br>Glyn FORD, MEP, Vice-President Globalisation Intergroup, PES<br>Caroline LUCAS, MEP, Vice-President Globalisation Intergroup, Greens/EFA<br>Jens HOLM, MEP, Member of Globalisation Intergroup, GUE/NGL<br>Olivier DE SCHUTTER, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food<br>Paul DE CLERCK, Coordinator, Economic Justice Programme, Friends of the Earth Europe  |
| <b>13:20 – 14:00</b> | <b>Registration</b> (40')  |
| <b>14:00 – 14:15</b> | <b>Welcome and opening</b> (15')<br>Glyn FORD, MEP, Vice-President Globalisation Intergroup, PES:<br><i>Views and Challenges of Global Europe</i><br>Caroline LUCAS, MEP, Vice-President Globalisation Intergroup, Greens/EFA:<br><i>Views and Challenges of Global Europe</i><br>Charly POPPE, Friends of the Earth Europe:<br><i>Introduction to the conference and views on Global Europe</i>   |
| <b>14:15 – 14:55</b> | <b>SESSION 1 – Global Europe: Trading Away the World's Natural Resources?</b> (40')<br>Moderation: Jacki DAVIS, EPC<br>Péter BALÁS, Deputy Director General DG Trade, European Commission:<br><i>The EU's Raw Materials Strategy</i><br>Jens HOLM, MEP, GUE/NGL: <i>The EP Resolution on Trade in Raw Materials</i><br>Ronnie HALL, independent environmental consultant:<br><i>Impacts of Resources Liberalisation on the World's Forests</i><br>Samuel NGUIFFO, CED/Friends of the Earth Cameroon:<br><i>Global Europe and Developing Countries' Sovereignty over their Natural Resources</i>  |
| <b>14:55 – 15:40</b> | <b>Q&amp;A + Discussion</b> (45')  |
| <b>15:40 – 16:40</b> | <b>SESSION 2 – Global Europe - Fuelling Europe: A Trade-off between Energy Security and Sustainability?</b> (60')<br>Moderation: Jacki DAVIS, EPC<br>Paul HODSON, Deputy Head of Unit, DG TREN, European Commission:<br><i>EU's Energy Security Agenda, Trade and Sustainability</i><br>Anders WIJKMAN, MEP, EPP:<br><i>Is Trade Driving Energy Insecurity or a Leverage to Sustainability?</i><br>Olivier DE SCHUTTER, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food:<br><i>Agrofuels Expansion and the Risks for Food Security</i><br>Shamila ARIFFIN, SAM/Friends of the Earth Malaysia:<br><i>EU's Agrofuels Consumption and Deforestation in South-East Asia</i><br>Paul DE CLERCK, Coordinator, Economic Justice Programme, FoEE:<br><i>EU Responsibilities in Energy Insecurity and Unsustainability</i><br>Ifeniya FESTAVERA LOTT, Friends of the Earth Nigeria:<br><i>Sustainability Impacts of Oil Extraction in Nigeria &amp; Role of the EU</i> |
| <b>16:40 – 17:25</b> | <b>Q&amp;A + Discussion</b> (45')  |
| <b>17:25 – 17:30</b> | <b>Wrap up of DAY 1 &amp; Programme of DAY 2</b> (5')<br>Jacki DAVIS, EPC  |
| <b>18:00 – 19:30</b> | <b>Fair Trade Reception</b>  |



Friday 5 December 2008

## LIVING BEYOND ITS RESOURCES: IMPACTS OF 'GLOBAL EUROPE' ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

European Parliament, Brussel, Room A3G2

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|----------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>08:50 – 09:30</b> | <b>Registration</b>  | <b>(40')</b> |
| <b>09:30 – 09:40</b> | <b>Welcome, Wrap up of DAY 1, Programme of DAY 2</b><br>Glyn FORD, MEP, Vice-President Globalisation Intergroup, PES   | <b>(10')</b> |
| <b>09:40 – 10:25</b> | <b>SESSION 3 – Global Europe: EU Free Trade Agreements &amp; Sustainable Development: The Need for a Re-evaluation?</b><br>Moderation: Shirin WHEELER, BBC<br>European Commission:<br><i>Sustainable Development &amp; Trade: EU's Strive for Mutual Supportiveness</i><br>Glyn FORD, MEP, Vice-President Globalisation Intergroup, PES:<br><i>EPAs, FTAs, AAs... Re-evaluating the EU's Bilateral Drive in Trade Agreements</i><br>Sebastian VALDOMIR, REDES/FoE Uruguay:<br><i>Impacts of EU FTAs on Environmental Protection in Latin America</i><br>Marc MAES, 11.11.11:<br><i>Sustainability Chapters in EU FTAs: Political Opportunity or Smokescreen?</i> | <b>(45')</b> |
| <b>10:25 – 11:30</b> | <b>Q&amp;A + Discussion</b>  | <b>(65')</b> |
| <b>11:30 – 12:45</b> | <b>SESSION 4 – PANEL DEBATE: Taking Stock of Global Europe, Looking Ahead</b><br><br>Introduction & Moderation: Shirin WHEELER, BBC<br><br>David O'SULLIVAN, Director General, DG Trade<br>Helmuth MARKOV, MEP, Chair of the Committee for International Trade, GUE/NGL<br>Eoin O'MALLEY, BUSINESSEUROPE<br>John HILARY, Executive Director, War on Want<br>Pierre JONCKHEER, MEP, Greens/EFA<br>Magda STOCZKIEWICZ, Director, Friends of the Earth Europe   | <b>(75')</b> |
| <b>12:45 – 13:00</b> | <b>Conclusions &amp; Closing</b><br>Magda STOCZKIEWICZ, Director, Friends of the Earth Europe<br>Vice-President Globalisation Intergroup   |              |

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## Speaker's Profiles

### **Glyn FORD, MEP, Vice-President Globalisation Intergroup, PES**



Glyn Ford has been a Labour Member of the European Parliament since 1984. He is at present a member of the following committees: International Trade, Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense and Petitions. In addition, Glyn Ford is involved in the Globalisation Intergroup as President and Secretary, in the the Sports Intergroup and in the Anti-racism Intergroup as Vice-President.

Glyn Ford is a member of the EU-Japan and Korean delegations, while also he was a rapporteur on the EU-ASEAN Trade Relations Report, and has keen interest and is an expert in EU-China relationships.

### **Caroline LUCAS, MEP, Vice-President Globalisation Intergroup, Greens/EFA**



Caroline Lucas is a Green MEP for the South East England Region and is also the leader of the Green Party of England and Wales. She has been a member of the European Parliament since 1999. Caroline sits on both the Environment and Trade Committees and is noted for campaigning and writing on climate change, Green economics, peace, alternatives to globalisation, trade justice, animal welfare and food.

### **Jens HOLM, MEP, Member of Globalisation Intergroup, GUE/NGL**



Jens Holm is member of the Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left - in the European Parliament. He is also member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the Temporary Committee on Climate Change, and the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

Before Jens Holm became MEP, he volunteered for Simon Community Dundalk, Ireland (1992-1993), and the Swedish Animal Rights Society (1997-2003). He worked as freelance journalist (1993-2003) and as press officer for the Social Welfare Department, Stockholm City (2003-2006).

### **Magda STOCZKIEWICZ, Director, Friends of the Earth Europe**



Magda Stoczkiewicz is Polish and graduated from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow with Master of Arts. She also holds a specialised degree in public relations and European affairs. She is one of the founders of the environmental organisation CEE Bankwatch Network, for which she worked for 12 years, first in Poland, then in Amsterdam and Brussels.

Magda Stoczkiewicz is the director of Friends of the Earth Europe since March 2008. She has 7 years of senior management experience in a non-profit organisation. She has advanced knowledge of campaigning on environmental, social and governance issues as well as understanding of human rights and development aspects, coupled with 9 years of experience in the intricacies of EU policy-making.



## Speaker's Profiles

### **Paul DE CLERCK, Coordinator, Economic Justice Programme, FoEE**



Paul de Clerck, who has worked in the environment and development sector since 1990, is heading the Economic Justice Program of Friends of the Earth Europe. Paul graduated law studies at the University of Tilburg in the Netherlands. Since 1990 he held various positions in Friends of the Earth Netherlands.

He initiated and coordinated the European wide FoE campaign on 'kerosene taxation' and he was responsible for the international department of FoE Netherlands. Paul was an FoEE Board member for 2 years. He is also initiator and/or steering group member of organisations such as OECDWatch, BankTrack, ALTER-EU and the European Coalition for Corporate Justice.

### **Charly POPPE, Friends of the Earth Europe**



Charly Poppe, a Belgian citizen, is currently the Coordinator of the Trade Campaign in the environmental NGO Friends of the Earth Europe. He is also one of the coordinators of the campaigning network 'Seattle to Brussels' and the European Trade Network. Charly is also a member of the Civil Society Contact Group of the European Commission's Trade Directorate.

He has previously worked as advocacy coordinator of the international Fair Trade associations in Brussels as well as coordinator of globalisation projects at the Heinrich Böll Foundation. His issues of interest are international trade, environment, development, Fair Trade and international governance. Charly has also a volunteer background in various development and Fair Trade NGOs in Belgium. He holds a Master in International Relations (ULB) and a degree in Economic and Social Ethics (UCL).

### **Olivier DE SCHUTTER, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food**



Olivier E. de Schutter is the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food (1 May 2008-1 May 2011). Moreover, he is a professor at the University of Louvain (Belgium) and at the College of Europe (Natolin). He is member of the Global Law School Faculty, New York University; he is visiting professor at the Columbia University, and he is coordinator of the EU Network of independent experts on fundamental rights.

Olivier de Schutter made his Ph. D. in Law at the Université catholique de Louvain.

### **Samuel NGUIFFO, CED/Friends of the Earth Cameroon**

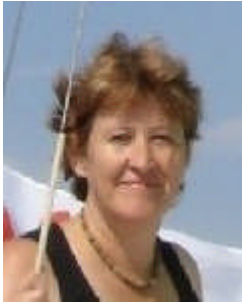


Samuel Nguiffo is the Director of Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement/Friends of the Earth Cameroon. Samuel Nguiffo has studied law and worked for over 15 years on issues related to natural resource management in Central Africa. His main areas of work include the impacts of policies to manage natural resources on the rights of people, the environment, and development of resource-rich countries. Samuel received the Goldman Prize for Africa in 1999.



## Speaker's Profiles

### Ronnie HALL, independent environmental consultant



Ronnie Hall is an independent environmental consultant, working closely with organisations including Friends of the Earth International and the Global Forest Coalition. Until 2007, Ronnie was International Coordinator of Friends of the Earth International's Trade, Environment and Sustainability Program, which she helped to establish in 1992.

She led Friends of the Earth International teams to WTO Ministerial meetings in Singapore, Seattle, Cancun and Hong Kong; and has been involved in writing and editing numerous environmental publications.

### Anders WIJKMAN, MEP, EPP



Anders Wijkman, University degree in political science at University of Stockholm, Member of the Swedish Parliament (1970-1978), Secretary General of the Swedish Red Cross, Secretary General of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Director General of the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC), Policy Director of UNDP, Ambassador at the Swedish Foreign Ministry, since 1999 Anders Wijkman is a Member of the European Parliament.

Other ongoing commitments: Vice President - Club of Rome, President - GLOBE-EU (Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment - EU), Chairman - Plan Sverige, Board member - Tällberg Foundation, Expert Group Chairman for the Swedish Commission on Climate Change and Development. Anders Wijkman has been a member of several government task forces on issues related to environment, sustainable development, energy, foreign aid etc. In April 2001 Mr Wijkman participated in the high-level expert panel on "ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) for development", appointed by the UN secretary general.

### Ifieniya FESTAVERA LOTT, Friends of the Earth Nigeria



Ifieniya Festavera Lott is volunteer for Friends of the Earth International. She is the main actor in the documentary "Poison Fire" on gas flaring in the Niger delta. She has been actively participating in the 2007 World Social Forum in Kenya, Nairobi.

Ifieniya Festavera Lott was manager of several empowerment projects, such as the Empowerment of Traditional Midwives (Rivers State, 2006), the Economic Empowerment of Rural Female Teenage Refugees (Rivers State, 2005), and the Economic Empowerment of Teenage Widows & Orphans/Rural Peace Building (Bayelsa State, 2002).



## Speaker's Profiles

### Shamila ARIFFIN, SAM/Friends of the Earth Malaysia



Areas of work cover the range of issues affecting native customary rights (NCR) of the indigenous communities of Sarawak and the impacts of activities such as logging, monoculture plantations and large-scale dam-building within the territorial boundaries of indigenous peoples. These include community organising and ground documentation activities with affected communities, lobby work at both national and international levels, assisting appointed legal representatives of indigenous communities filing civil actions on the violations of their land rights and policy research work, focusing in particular on national, provincial and international legislative and governance frameworks.

Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) is an independent national environmental organisation established in 1977 to campaign against the deterioration of the Malaysian environment and the destruction of our invaluable natural resources. SAM works with affected communities, from farmers to indigenous communities to ensure that environmental justice is linked with social justice as well being involved with policy and other related advocacy work. SAM has offices in Penang and Marudi, Sarawak and is a federation member of Friends of the Earth International.

### Sebastian VALDOMIR, REDES/FoE Uruguay



Sebastián Valdomir, a Uruguayan citizen, joined the organisation Red de Ecología Social (REDES) / Friends of the Earth Uruguay in 2003 where he started as a trade campaigner, focussing primarily on the FTAA campaign. He is REDES' trade campaign coordinator since January 2007. After being the Latin American regional representative in Friends of the Earth International's Economic Justice Programme, he became the Programme's International Coordinator in November 2008.

Sebastian is also involved in the political support committee of the Brazilian Landless Movement, where he notably gives courses about Latin American political issues. He is the co-author of the book "Waters in Movement: The Resistance Against Water Privatisation in Uruguay" (2006) and has collaborated in numerous publications and reports of Human Rights organisations such as Peace and Justice Service (SERPAJ) and the Inter-American Platform of Human Rights, Democracy and Development (PIDHDD), with a focus on environmental conflicts.

Sebastian is trained in sociology and holds a specialised degree in political sociology and development.

### Marc MAES, 11.11.11



Marc Maes is Trade Policy Officer of the Belgian NGO-coalition 11.11.11 and is active in various international networks monitoring and campaigning on the European trade policy



## Speaker's Profiles

### David O'SULLIVAN, Director DG Trade, EU Commission



David O'Sullivan is currently the European Commission's Director General for Trade. His services support the EU's Trade Commissioner, Catherine Ashton, in negotiating bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, ensuring that foreign markets are open for EU businesses and that the international rules agreed are actually applied, so that trade policy contributes to the Commission's headline goals of prosperity, solidarity and security both in the EU and around the world. The post of Director General for Trade has brought David back to the Department in which he started his Commission career, first in Brussels and then in the Commission's Tokyo office.

David was Secretary General of the European Commission from June 2000 to November 2005, Head of Cabinet of Commission President Romano Prodi and Director General for Education and Training. He also has extensive experience in EU social and employment policy. David has a background in economics, graduating from Trinity College, Dublin and having completed post graduate studies at the College of Europe, Bruges. He holds an Honorary Doctorate from the Dublin Institute of Technology. He is also a Member of the Consultative Board of the Institute for International Integration Studies at Trinity College, Dublin. He is married with two children.

### Pierre JONCKHEER, MEP, Vice-President of the Greens / EFA



Pierre Jonckheer is Vice-President of the GREENS/EFA Group responsible for relations with the European Green Party. He is member of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection and Substitute of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and of the Subcommittee on Human Rights.

Pierre Jonckheer became member of ECOLO in 1986. Since 2001, he lectures at the Catholic University of Leuven (UCL).

### Helmuth MARKOV, MEP, Chair of the Committee for International Trade, GUE/NGL



Helmuth Markov is a German politician and member of the European Parliament with the Party of Democratic Socialism, Treasurer of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left. He is member of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade.

Helmuth Markov is a substitute for the Committee on Transport and Tourism and a member of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee.

## Speaker's Profiles

### John HILARY, Executive Director, War on Want



John Hilary is Executive Director of War on Want. He has worked in the field of international development and global justice for the past 20 years across a range of organisations, among them Amnesty International, Save the Children and ActionAid.

John is the author of numerous publications on international development and trade issues, including: *Global Europe: The European Union's double attack on developing countries and the European social model* (2008); *The Doha Deindustrialisation Agenda: Non-Agricultural Market Access Negotiations at the WTO* (2005); *Profiting from Poverty: Privatisation consultants, DFID and public services* (2004); *Unlimited Companies: The developmental impacts of an investment agreement at the WTO* (2003); *GATS and Water: The threat of services negotiations at the WTO* (2003).

### Jacki DAVIS, EPC



Jacki Davis is Communications Director at the European Policy Centre, a leading Brussels-based think tank. She is also a regular commentator on EU affairs on both radio and television.

Until December 2005, she was editor-in-chief of E!Sharp, a bimonthly magazine on the European Union which was launched in December 2001. Before that, Jacki was editor of European Voice, a Brussels-based weekly newspaper on EU affairs owned by The Economist Group. She was responsible for launching the newspaper in October 1995 and remained its editor for five years.

Jacki moved to Brussels in 1992 as EU correspondent for the Daily Mail. She had spent the previous five years working for the newspaper in London, starting as a general reporter in 1987 and working on the newsdesk before becoming consumer affairs correspondent in 1990 and taking up her post in Brussels two years later. Jacki started her career in journalism in 1984 on a local weekly newspaper just outside London, where she worked her way up from trainee journalist to news editor.

### Shirin WHEELER, BBC



Shirin Wheeler presents The Record Europe for BBC News. The programme is broadcast each weekend on BBC News 24 and BBC World. She also reports on other matters for various BBC outlets.







## Background & Issues

### Session 1 – 'Global Europe': Trading Away the World's Natural Resources?

“We are in a race” stated former Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson in September 2008. Access to raw materials has recently climbed up the EU’s external political agenda, with the launch in November 2008 of a new strategy aimed at improving the competitiveness of EU’s industry by tackling a series of “non-tariff barriers” against trade in raw materials. The EU is highly dependent on imports for the supply of the principal raw materials required by industry. It imported more than 175 million tonnes of metallic minerals in 2004, with a total value of EUR 10.5 billion, whilst domestic production of these stood at only 30 million tonnes. The import dependency rate for minerals ranges from 74 percent for copper ore, 80 percent for zinc ore and bauxite, 86 percent for nickel, to 100 percent for materials as cobalt, platinum, titanium and vanadium. In total, Europe imports 70-80 percent of its primary resources.

According to the European Commission, the number of restrictions to trade of raw materials is increasing. “Resource nationalism” is growing across the globe, which distorts the global raw materials markets and threatens the EU’s own competitiveness. The Commission estimates that more than 450 of such restrictions have an impact on more than 400 tariff lines. These restrictions exist in key markets for raw materials such as China, Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and Argentina, but also other resource-rich developing countries like DRC.

While the EU focuses on the ‘security of supply’ of raw materials, developing countries have warned against the attack to the sovereignty over their natural resources, and environmentalists have raised concerns about the strategy’s detrimental impacts on the sustainable development of the natural resources sector. In fact, in many resource-rich countries, natural resources are exploited beyond a sustainable level, spoiling natural habitats, displacing local communities, affecting people’s livelihoods and even fuelling armed conflicts – a phenomenon called the “resource curse”. Most of the times, economic considerations in the resources sector still prevail over environmental ones. Will the EU’s strategy tackle these problems or will it further exacerbate them?

### Session 2 – Fuelling Europe: A Trade-off between Energy Security and Sustainability?

« Europe is becoming increasingly dependent on imported hydrocarbons. With “business as usual” the EU’s energy import dependence will jump from 50 percent of total EU energy consumption today to 65 percent in 2030. Reliance on imports of gas is expected to increase from 57 percent to 84 percent by 2030, of oil from 82 percent to 93 percent » (EC Communication: *An Energy Policy for Europe*, 10.01.2007). Europe, therefore, has an important responsibility in relation to the problems and opportunities caused by the extraction of these energy sources.

Production of fossil fuels results in enormous amounts of GHG emissions which are proven to be the major cause of climate change. Emissions released by oil and gas companies during gas flaring and venting amounts to approximately 400 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> on a global scale. This is more than the amount covered under current Kyoto mechanisms. Globally flared and vented gas makes up about one third of the EU’s annual gas consumption. Besides having significant negative impact on climate change, the extraction of these fuels creates social and environmental problems such as abuses of human rights, corruption, numerous diseases, acid rains and dangerous accidents.

Extraction of fossil fuels in developing countries should contribute to their capacity to build up their economies: earn foreign exchange, create jobs and raise living standards. Instead, in most of the cases, it brings poverty and environmental degradation. Most countries that heavily depend on fossil fuels extraction fall low on the ‘Human Development Index’ of the United Nations, in addition to the ‘Human Poverty Index’. In Nigeria almost 40 percent of the population lives in absolute poverty, while for Indonesia this figure is 30 percent, despite the billions of Euros of revenue these countries have earned through resource exploitation.

As climate change and sustainable development combined with high human rights standards are at the heart of the EU’s political agenda, measures for the reduction of GHG emissions and negative impacts of fossil fuels extraction on people and environment should become a top priority.

Reality, however, shows a different picture. As Europe’s demand for fossil fuels continues to grow, the EU is getting more aggressive in supporting European oil companies in order to ensure energy security for the European markets. There are several examples of the EU and its Member States giving priority to securing energy supply over sustainable development:



## Background & Issues

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- The EU advocates development of oil and gas exploration from highly environmentally vulnerable areas such as the Arctic, Alaska or the Caspian Sea and does not *request* European oil companies to implement European environmental standards outside Europe. This runs counter to the EU's climate change policies as oil exploitation from tar sands in Alaska results in 3-5 times higher GHG emissions compared to regular oil exploitation. Drilling in the Arctic and the Caspian see will destroy extremely valuable and vulnerable ecosystems. In a recent statement Commissioner Piebalgs said that guaranteeing Europe's energy security justified further exploration of the North Pole. *"You even need to go into hostile environments [...] You can't say "this is a sanctuary" because it will not work [...] Otherwise, where will we get energy from?"*
- The EU and its Member States are supporting European oil companies in their negotiations on production-sharing agreements for oil and gas extraction with third countries which are highly unfavourable to these countries. In recent cases EU Heads of State and Commissioners personally intervened and sided with companies such as Eni and Shell to defend deals with Kazakhstan and Russia that were not only harmful for the environment but also economically bad for these countries.
- Despite its sustainable development policies the EU and its Member States continue to give financial support to already extremely profitable oil and gas companies. The EIB, just as EU Member States (via the World Bank, the EBRD, export credit agencies), are funding fossil fuel projects, for instance through R&D funds, new projects on carbon storage or export subsidies. The EU thus undermines its own climate change policies. This also runs counter to a 2007 EP Resolution calling for the *"discontinuation of public support, via export credit agencies and public investment banks, for fossil fuel projects"*.
- Gas flaring is a substantial contributor to climate change and other environmental and health problems in third countries. Through the Fuel Quality Directive (aiming at reducing GHG emissions from fossil fuels with 10 percent in 10 years), the EU has a unique opportunity to pressure oil and gas companies to reduce and phase out gas flaring in countries like Nigeria, Algeria and Russia. However, the EU fails to do so and accepts the unjustified statements from the oil and gas companies that they are not able to reduce GHG emissions through reduced gas flaring.

In March 2007, as part of a package of measures adopted to help mitigate Europe's impact on climate change, the European Heads of State set a target to increase the use of agrofuels in all road transport fuels to 10 percent by 2020. This applied to plant fuels such as bio-ethanol or bio-diesel. This policy was developed to ensure that Europe would have sufficient transport fuels, while not increasing the contribution of transport to global warming.

Since then, numerous reports, including from the OECD and FAO, have pointed to the risks posed by agrofuel expansion to food security, preservation of tropical forests, land use change, and to the doubtful benefits in terms of climate mitigation compared to "conventional" fossil fuels. It became apparent that securing Europe's transport needs has extremely detrimental impacts, mostly in developing countries but also in the EU itself, as the prices of many food products have been rising significantly over the last few months.

In September 2008, the European Parliament's Industry Committee proposed to reduce this controversial target to 5 percent by 2015, with further increases dependent on a major policy review. For many, the agrofuel boom is just a "hype" which was pushed by its first beneficiaries which are large corporations from the agro-industrial, biotech and chemical sectors. Others point to the danger of energy policies overriding or even hijacking agricultural and food policies, and of both markets converging. With the amount of agriculture land limited, the EU will be heavily reliant on imports from mainly developing countries, who in response to the new European market demand, are developing ambitious plans to expand key agricultural commodities – especially in Africa, Asia and South America.



## Background & Issues

### Session 3 – Free Trade Agreements & Sustainable Development: The Need for a Re-evaluation?

With the launch of 'Global Europe', the European Union put an end to its 8 year-old moratorium on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) which started in 1999 in view of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle which was supposed to mark the start of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Today there are between 300 and 350 FTAs in place or in negotiation worldwide. Of these, around 60 have already been concluded by the EU, and many others are currently being negotiated. This makes the EU a "world champion" in FTAs in contradiction to its self-image as an advocate of multilateralism.

The EU's 'bilateral drive' has spurred widespread criticism in European and in developing countries, and a number of concerns have been raised around:

- The deviation from multilateralism;
- The domino effect it has on other countries or regions, creating a vicious circle of more bilateral trade agreements across the world;
- Their radical liberalisation agenda, notably through the strong push for 'Singapore Issues' and further intellectual property right enforcement, which were all issues rejected by developing countries at the multilateral level;
- The asymmetries arising from 'face-to-face' negotiations between rich and poor economic partners.

The EU has put forward a 'new generation' of FTAs that it says will contain strong 'sustainability chapters', making the EU's bilateral trade agenda and its sustainable development objectives 'mutually supportive'. But evidence from previous EU FTAs and current negotiations suggests that such social and environmental chapters or clauses within free trade agreements present little leverage to make trade a driver of genuine sustainable development.

Economic Partnership Agreements with African Caribbean and Pacific countries, in particular, have caused widespread concerns among civil society, parliaments and ACP governments, for both the negotiating tactics employed by the EU and the severe impacts these agreements would have on ACP economies; on their agriculture, natural resources, industrial development and policy space.

*\* Trade and Trade-related bilateral and bi-regional agreements with third countries or regional blocks carry different names: Free Trade Agreements, Economic Partnership Agreements, Association Agreements, Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, Trade & Development Cooperation Agreements, Stabilisation and Association Agreements, Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement,*

*\*\* Bilateral trade agreements are taking an increasing importance in EU's external trade policy, with already major agreements in place (EEA, EU-Chile, EU-Mexico, EU-South Africa, various FTAs with central European and Mediterranean countries) and others being negotiated (EPAs with ACP countries, FTA with Gulf Cooperation Council, the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Agreement, Association Agreements with Central America and Andean Community; FTAs with India, Korea, ASEAN and Gulf Cooperation Council) or envisaged (Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, Canada).*

### Session 4 – PANEL DEBATE – Taking Stock of Global Europe, Looking Ahead

- What are the outcomes of Global Europe two years after its launch?
- What has Global Europe changed in EU policies, and how has the EU's competitiveness drive influenced them?
- What is the future of Global Europe?
- Why should the EU abandon Global Europe?
- Can "competitiveness" and sustainability be reconciled?



## The Organisers of the Conference

### Friends of the Earth Europe...

Friends of the Earth Europe campaigns for sustainable and just societies and for the protection of the environment, unites more than 30 national organisations with thousands of local groups and is part of the world's largest grassroots environmental network, Friends of the Earth International.



### The Globalisation Intergroup of the European Parliament.

The Intergroup Globalization of the European Parliament has been set up at the beginning of the current legislative term in 2004 by MEPs of the Socialist Group (PSE), the United Left/Nordic Group (GUE) and the Green Group/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA). Its goal is to connect MEPs working in the EPs Committees on Trade, Economic Matters, and Foreign Affairs, raising Parliamentarian's critical awareness on issues of economic globalization.



Members of the Intergroup Globalization participated in the "Reclaiming Public Water" conference in Madrid (November 2005), the Paris conference on Aviation Taxes for the financing of development (March 2006) and the Brasilia conference on Innovative Financing for Development (July 2006). Apart from seminars organized in the EP, the Intergroup Globalization sponsored an Oral Question with Resolution on the World Water Forum in Mexico (Dec 2005), and a Resolution on Development Financing (Feb 2006). The Intergroup Globalization is chaired by Glyn Ford (PSE), Caroline Lucas (Greens) and Vittorio Agnoletto (GUE).

The Globalisation Intergroup of the European Parliament includes representatives of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament, the Greens | European Free Alliance and the European United Left | Nordic Green Left.



### List of Participants

Ms	Clarissa Trois	Abreu	FoE Brazil	Brazil
Mr	José Roberto	Acosta	CESTA / FoE El Salvador	El Salvador
Mr	Richard	Adams	EESC	UK
Ms	Camilla	Adelle	Institute for European Environmental Policy	UK
Ms	Anouk	Adjemian	European Parliament	France
Ms	Shamila	Ariffin	Sahabat Alam Malaysia / FoE Malaysia	Malaysia
Mr	Rajendranath	Awotar	FoE Mauritius	Mauritius
Mr	Kim	Bizzarri	University of Strathclyde	UK
Mr	Bart	Bode	Broederlijk Delen	Belgium
Mr	Romain	Boulongne	/	France
Mr	Simon	Bowring	European Parliament	UK
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