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eClimail - 7 March 2008

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Climate Alliance Events

- 1) International Climate Alliance Annual Conference
"Local Climate Protection Crosses Borders"

1 - 4 April 2008 in Aachen and Heerlen

- Covenant of Mayors

Commissioner Andris Piebalgs launched the Covenant of Mayors, a new and very ambitious initiative involving local authorities in the fight against climate change. Stakeholders are invited to provide comments on the draft document until 30 April 2008. Therefore we will discuss this topic during the plenary session

on the first day of the Climate Alliance Conference and would like to ask you, to bring in your contributions and remarks to this paper.

<http://www.klimaschutz.de/index.php?id=660&L=0>

- CO2-Monitoring-Tool

During the Annual Conference the starting signal takes place for the CO2 emission inventory ECO2-Regio (version KB,eea®) of Climate Alliance and the European Energy Award® for cities, municipalities and districts in Germany. The software was developed by Ecospeed and is already in operation in municipalities in Switzerland. The Climate Alliance is now looking for possibilities to develop an emission inventory usable in all European cities and municipalities so that the CO2 emissions will be comparable.

Further info: Dr. Dag Schulze, d.schulze@climatealliance.org

The topics addressed in workshops will be 'Adaptation to Climate Change', 'Energy Efficient Procurement', 'Retrofitting Buildings', 'Energy Alternatives in Transport' and 'Energy Bridges between North and South'. Furthermore we invite to a workshop for politicians with the theme 'Climate Protection as a Chance for Local Economy'.

<http://www.climatealliance.org/aktuell/mv2008-uebersicht.htm>

2) European Mobility Week

16 - 22 September 2008 - "Clean Air for All"

In this week all European cities and towns will have the opportunity to participate to the most widespread event on sustainable mobility: Last year in more than 2000 cities and towns events dedicated to sustainable mobility have been organised - not only in Europe but world-wide.

<http://www.mobilityweek.eu>

Rainforest News

3) Ecuador - illegal lumberjacks killed indigenous

Illegal lumberjacks have killed media-reports according to five members of the indigenous people of the Taromenani in the rainforest of Ecuador. The invaders would have killed their victims in the national park of Yasuní, which is also biosphere-preserve of the Unesco. That reported local media under appeal on an authority-representative. The Taromenanis are the last indigenous people that live in self-chosen isolation of the outside world, in the region together with the Tagaeris. Scientists assume that there are left only 150 to 300 Taromenanis and 20 to 30 Tagaeris. The lumberjacks usually urge for streets into the jungle one that was positioned by oil searchers.

http://www.n24.de/news/newsitem_335315.html

4) Miserable value for agro fuels

The conversion of forests and grasslands into fields for the plants offsets the benefit of using the fuel, researchers find. Greenhouse-gas output overall would rise instead of fall. The rush to grow fuel crops - widely embraced as part of the solution to global warming - is actually increasing greenhouse gas emissions rather than reducing them, according to two studies published in the journal Science. One analysis found that clearing forests and grasslands to grow the crops releases vast amounts of carbon into the air - far more than the carbon spared from the atmosphere by burning agro fuels instead of gasoline.

<http://www.enn.com/pollution/article/31038>

5) World Bank supports rainforest destruction

In February 2008 the World Bank announced 300 million dollar in funding for the liquefied natural gas project, Camisea II in Peru. The existing natural gas production already has caused massive ecological destruction and has harmed the indigenous peoples. The granted part of the project is for the export of liquefied natural gas to Mexico and in the USA. The revenues are meant to rearm the army and the police in Peru.

http://www.oxfamamerica.org/newsandpublications/press_releases/world-bank-announces-funding-approval-for-peru-pipeline-project

News from Europe

6) European Mobility Week Award

The municipalities of Arad (Romania) and Koprivnica (Croatia) as well as the Climate Alliance city of Frankfurt am Main have been nominated for the European Mobility Week Award. Finally Koprivnica (30,000 inhabitants) was awarded for its sustainable campaigns and for the programme "Streets for People", which lasts for three years.

<http://www.mobilityweek.eu/Logo-pictures-and-press-release>

7) European Solar Days - 16 and 17 May 2008

The European Solar Days will take place for the first time - over 4,000 events around the eco-friendly sun energy. In 2001 the Solar Days took place in Austria for the first time. Switzerland and Germany followed. Now it is time to organise these Days for solar energy in whole Europe - Belgium, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Slovenia will participate in 2008 for the first time.

<http://www.solardays.eu/4.0.html>

8) EC environmental ministers on air traffic and emission trading

In December 2007 the European Council of environmental ministers have concluded that the air traffic will be included in the EU emission trading. From 2012 all flights with departure and destination within the EU will be included in this system.

<http://www.umweltdachverband.at/cgi-bin/euburo/newsletter/eunews.pl?aktion=framebau&newsid=1657&nummer=1/2008&zg=8>

Worldwide

9) Kyoto contract period has been started

Since 1 January 2008 the contract period of the Protocol has been started, 36 industrial nations which ratified the protocol are affected: Within the next five years until 2012, the annual green house gas emissions of these nations have to be - at an average - less than the agreed target. There are own targets for every country (or the EU respectively). Overall the target for the Kyoto states is -5 percent.

<http://www.umweltdachverband.at/cgi-bin/euburo/newsletter/eunews.pl?aktion=framebau&newsid=1665&nummer=1/2008&zg=8>

10) Tipping elements - critical points in world's climate system

"Society may be lulled into a false sense of security by smooth projections of global change," the researchers around Timothy Lenton from the British University of East Anglia in Norwich and Hans Joachim Schellnhuber from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research report. Global change may appear to be a slow and gradual process on human scales. However, in some regions anthropogenic forcing on the climate system could kick start abrupt and potentially irreversible changes. For these sub-systems of the Earth system the researchers introduce the term "tipping element".

<http://www.pik-potsdam.de/news/press-releases/tipping-elements-in-the-earths-climate-system/>

11) CCS - safety risks not analysed enough

Present feasibility studies on carbon capture and storage (CCS) have been concentrated on technical methods or economic efficiency. Questions on the safety of human and environment have not been taken into consideration. This conclusion was reached in a current study by the Petroleum Safety Authority Norway.

According to this the corrosive and toxic character of gaseous, liquid and solid CO2 are not analyzed enough.

<http://www.eu-umweltbuero.at/cgi-bin/newsletter/eunews.pl?aktion=framebau&newsid=1703&nummer=5/2008&zg=8>

Events

12) World Sustainable Energy Days

5 - 7 March 2008 in Wels, Austria

<http://www.esv.or.at/esv/index.php?id=228>

13) The Future of GHG Emission Trading in the EU

20 and 21 March 2008 in Ljubljana

<http://www.se-f.si/en/ets/content>

14) Climate Change and the Cities of the Future

1 and 2 April 2008 in Alcalá de Henares, Spain

<http://european-climate-forum.net/>

15) Meetbike - European Conference on Bicycle Transport and Networking

3 and 4 April 2008 in Dresden, Germany

<http://www.meetbike.org>

16) Annual Energie-Cités Rendezvous - Towards Europe's Sustainable Energy Future

9 - 11 April 2008 in Cork, Ireland

<http://www.energie-cites.eu/-Cork-IE-2008->

17) International Conference on Passive Houses

11 and 12 April 2008 in Nuremberg, Germany

http://www.passivhaustagung.de/elfte/english/01_start_home.html

18) The New Legislative Framework on EU Energy Policy

22 and 23 May 2008 in Luxembourg

<http://www.eipa.eu/en/activities/show/&tid=2362>

19) International Conference on Geothermal Use of Minewater

4 and 5 June 2008 in Heerlen (NL) and Aachen (DE)

<http://www.minewater08.info>