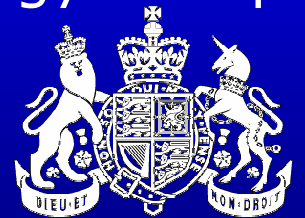


UK & EU activities on climate change

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Office

“Our collective responsibility to each other is nowhere more evident than in the huge challenge posed by climate change... We will not solve this problem if we do not each take our share of the responsibility for tackling it.”

“If we do not act now, an unstable climate will undermine our progress in all those other areas that matter to us... we risk undermining the very basis of the prosperity and security we are seeking to achieve.”

“We must recognise that talk of having either a successful economy or a stable climate is a false choice... while it won't cost the earth to solve climate change, it will cost the earth, literally and financially, if we don't.”

Margaret Beckett, UNGA statement, 22 September 2006



Climate change is a security and prosperity issue

“We need to treat climate change not as a long term threat to our environment but as an **immediate** threat to our security and prosperity.”

“We need to see a stable climate as a **public good** without which it will become increasingly difficult to deliver the other public goods that citizens rightly expect from those who govern them.”

John Ashton, the Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change



Climate Change and Energy Security

- Energy security and climate security are both essential for national security. Political stability and economic growth depend on energy and climate security: ensuring an affordable and reliable supply of energy and avoiding dangerous climate change.
- Investing in our energy needs must be done in a way that maintains a stable climate. A coherent energy security policy must deliver climate security.
- Our exposure to international risks (markets, security, accident) will increase as we become more dependent on imported energy. Diversifying sources of energy, both in terms of where it comes from, and of the type of energy (renewables, clean technologies, nuclear) can help reduce dependence, as can increased energy efficiency. They also help avoid dangerous climate change.

Managing world energy demand helps to ensure that we are making more efficient use of finite energy resources, and therefore, contributes to energy security.

What has the EU been doing on climate change?

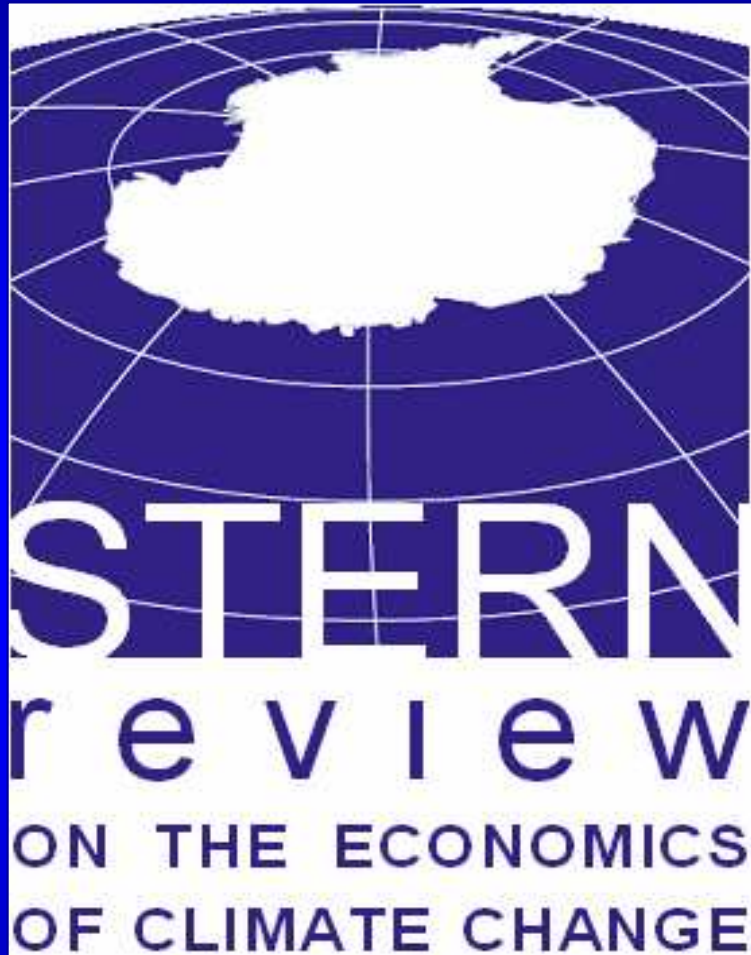
Until January 2007:

- national/Kyoto commitments for EU Member States
- energy efficiency measures
- renewable energy
- vehicle emissions standards
- research and development
- EU ETS

Intensification of EU activity on climate change, prompted by:

- growing public awareness (eg Inconvenient Truth etc)
- political dynamic in UK and elsewhere
- Stern Report on Economics of Climate Change
- consensus over science of climate change. Sceptics increasingly marginalised.

A huge risk, but also opportunities



- ▶ Action now will cost less than action in the future
- ▶ We already have the tools and technologies needed to stabilise emissions
- ▶ These tools create enormous opportunities for wealth and employment

Barroso and other EU Commissioners convinced by Stern arguments on competitiveness...

...leading to Commission's Strategic Energy Review (SER) on 10 January:

- Meet energy policy objectives = meet climate policy objectives
- recommendations on GHG emissions reduction; energy technologies (incl CCS); renewables; energy efficiency

Spring European Council, 8-9 March 2007

- Historic decision to press ahead with building a low-carbon economy in Europe, through an ambitious and far-reaching package of measures.
- Agreement that a competitive economy is a low-carbon economy, and that the shift to a low-carbon economy is a driver of competitiveness, not a threat. President Barroso describes this as “a new industrial revolution.”



What did EU leaders agree at the Spring Council?

- A clear vision for a post-2012 framework including on technology transfer, carbon markets, deforestation and adaption.
- A target to reduce emissions by 20% by 2020, rising to 30% in the context of an international agreement.
- 12-15 CCS demonstration plants by 2015, with the aim for all new fossil fuel plants to be fitted with CCS by 2020.
- Targets for 20% renewables by 2020; 10% biofuels in transport petrol by 2020; and 20% improvement in energy efficiency by 2020.
- The need for further measures to ensure effective energy market liberalisation

UN Security Council Debate on 'Energy, climate and security', 17 April, New York

First time UN SC debated links between climate change, energy and security.

Margaret Beckett, UK Foreign Secretary, said:

"An unstable climate risks some of the drivers of conflict – such as migratory pressures and competition for resources – getting worse. The Stern Report speaks of a potential economic disruption on the scale of the two World Wars and the great depression. That alone will inevitably have an impact on all of our security – developed and developing countries alike.

So today is about the world recognising that there is a security imperative, as well as economic, developmental and environmental ones, to tackling climate change. And for us begin to build a shared understanding of the relationship between energy, climate and security."



FCO INTERNATIONAL PRIORITY (6)

Achieving climate security by promoting a faster transition to a sustainable, low carbon global economy.



UK International Climate Change Strategy

The UK Government's international climate change strategy, agreed in January 2007, sets out the following objectives:

- to bring about a step change in global investment in low carbon technologies to enable a transition to a low carbon economy, including through an effective carbon market;
- to build resilience through managing impacts and promoting adaptation to climate change
- to secure international agreement to a realistic, robust, durable and fair framework of commitments for the post-2012 period.



Implications for EU

- Higher temperatures affect pipeline transit of gas from supplier countries. Security of supply threatened?
- Tourism - warmer temperatures damage European ski industry
- Increase in water stress (eg from melting Himalayan glaciers) produces destabilising effect on China's economic and political stability.

Opportunities for the Czech Republic

- Getting ahead of the curve: stealing a march on competitors in developing low carbon technologies
- First mover advantage: deploying Czech innovation and expertise to deploy these technologies
- Cost effectiveness of energy efficiency
- Responding to public opinion: EU citizens' opinion shifting against carbon intensive goods as concerns over climate change grow

