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Onderwerp: Just Transition newsletter February 2011 Post-Cancún Edition

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EDITORIAL

The Cancun Agreements: a catalogue of good intentions requiring determined action

Benjamin Denis, Expert in the climate service at SPF SSCAE and Lecturer at the Saint-Louis university faculties, Brussels

A year after the flop in Copenhagen, the Cancun Summit has undeniably given new impetus to a multilateral process that was running out of steam. The constructive spirit in which the majority of State Parties approached the proceedings, in conjunction with the skilful Mexican diplomacy, enabled a renewal of discussions believed by many to have become so bogged down in complexity as to make any further progress impossible.

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ETUI activities

Has the 2° C target been lost and, if so, what does it mean for the future of climate policies?

Expert opinion: Bela Galgoczi, ETUI Senior Researcher

The Cancun Agreements call for countries under the UNFCCC to list their emission reduction targets and actions which they announced in 2010 as a basis 'for the largest mitigation effort the world has ever seen'. The outcome of Cancun is welcome as, for the first time, all the major economies have committed themselves to reduce emissions, but it nonetheless falls far short of meeting the underlying promise to keep the global temperature rise below 2° C.

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Trade Unions' activities

Just Transition interview with Anabella Rosemberg (TUAC & ITUC)

'Obtaining a fair, ambitious and binding deal on climate change should not be kept separate from, for example, the fight for better public services or for social protection. Our challenge is to bring all these demands together in a coherent manner, and show that the trade union movement is ready to take up the challenge of achieving a more sustainable society.'

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ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow speech at UNFCCC Cancún

[Watch the video](#)

Trade unions welcome the final agreement reached in Cancún

Trade unions particularly welcome the references in the text to Just Transition, which creates decent work and good quality jobs, a crucial concept for building workers' support for climate action.

[Read more](#)

Cancun agreement includes Human Rights principles

The UN is effectively helping to create what in union terms is a procedural agreement, with just transition providing a place at the table for trade unions, involving the principles of consultation, green jobs, green skills and respect for labour and human rights.

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CUPE recognizes that the Cancún agreement is just part of the answer

Claude Généreux, national secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Union of Public Employees said that "to tackle climate change, we will need to move toward a new green economy. That will mean alternative and green energy production. That will mean serious changes in our communities and to their infrastructure. That will mean reforms on how we produce and how we consume. But we have to make sure workers don't pay the price of these transformations, and that green, decent jobs are created". [Read more](#)

BlueGreen Alliance statement on Cancún Climate Agreement

David Foster, Executive Director of the U.S. *partnership of labour unions and environmental organizations*, said that confronting climate change will not only protect the environment for communities and workers around the world, but has the potential to create and preserve good jobs through the just transition to clean, renewable energy. [Read more](#)

EU news

The Hungarian EU Presidency is committed to tackling the challenges of environmental protection

The Presidency is committed to implementing the Cancún Summit's outcomes and achieve that the EU adopts a post-2010 biodiversity strategy in the next six months. The Hungarian Presidency wants to point out the importance of tackling extreme water-related phenomena in an integrated and sustainable manner and aims to promote the negotiations on the proposal for the public production of genetically modified plants.

[Read more](#)

MEPs have welcomed results from UN climate change negotiations in Cancún

According to Jo Leinen, chair of the European Parliament delegation to the COP 16, 'the UN climate conference in Cancun paved the way for a global climate treaty. It has also kept the path open to continue this multilateral process under the UN, as the EU had supported'. The agreement also includes issues on forestry, technology transfer and a climate fund to support adaptation and mitigation efforts in the developing world. [Read more](#)

EC in Cancún: 'We also took new steps'

Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, said that for the first time, the 2°C objective is acknowledged in a UN document, the pledges are anchored and the obvious has been stated, namely that countries need to do more for the world to stay below the 2°C rise. She underlined the importance of the fact that China has accepted international consultation and analysis. [Read more](#)

UNFCCC Chief says Cancún must be followed by higher global emission cuts and rapid launch of new climate bodies and funds

The Cancún Agreements asked developed nations to send the UNFCCC secretariat details of their part in the USD 30 billion of fast-start finance, which they promised to deliver between 2010 and 2012 to support developing countries. [Read more](#)
[\(pdf\)](#)

EU on track to meet 2020 renewables targets

According to the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) 20.7% of energy consumption - and 34% of electricity demand will be met by energy sources such as wind, hydro, solar and biomass power by the decade's end. [Read more](#)

EEA: Tackling climate change requires a shift to a resource efficient, low carbon and green economy

Climate change is happening. The current global average temperature is already about 0.7-0.8 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial level. Even if greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations had stabilized in the year 2000, temperatures are predicted to increase by 1.2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level by the end of the 21st century. [Read more](#)

Events

Reframing sustainability? Climate change and North-South dynamics

10-11 February 2011
 University of Helsinki

EU Environmental Achievements and Future Challenges:

The role of the EEB at the occasion of John Hontelez leaving
 18 February 2011
 Goethe Institute, Rue Belliard 58, Brussels

SAVE THE DATE: Climate Change: an opportunity for social cooperation

ETUI
 29-30 March 2011
 Brussels

Other Actors and Documents

Civil society's response to the Cancun Agreements

Some reflections from different social actors: Greenpeace, Oxfam, WWF.

[Read more](#)

Analysis: Carbon markets to struggle after Cancun

Cancun agreement paved no path for the world's largest coal producer and greenhouse gas emitter to embark on mandatory emissions targets. Carbon prices in the EU market, now hovering around 14.5 euros or \$19.20 a tonne, were expected to react more to EU policies than anything that happened in Cancun. Those prices are less than half of what would be needed to drive polluters that burn coal to invest in nuclear energy and CCS at home. [Read more](#)

UN decisions adopted by COP 16 and CMP 6

[Read more](#)

Understanding Climate Change

European Environment State and Outlook Report (SOER) 2010 thematic assessment
 European Environmental Agency

[Read more](#)

For more information, please contact the editor [Aida Ponce](#). To subscribe or have your name removed from the mailing list, send an email to [Mariya Nikolova](#).

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Just Transition Newsletter

**This e-newsletter keeps you informed on the activities of the European workers' movement towards a just transition into a sustainable society.
 It links issues on climate change, work and social justice.**

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