

Climate change

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Stockholm, Sweden, on 30th and 31st October 2008:

Urges all member states and European institutions to do their utmost to reach agreement on the climate package in order for the EU to be able to act as a strong and united actor at the Copenhagen post-Kyoto conference in December 2009 and therefore:

- Supports the 2007 and 2008 European Council conclusions regarding climate change and the transformation of Europe to a low carbon economy, as well as the EU's commitment to at least a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.
- Recalls European Council Conclusions – based not least on the Stern Report's findings - instructing the Council to follow a cost-effective and flexible way to reach energy and climate policy objectives.
- Supports the need for increased EU investment in research and development to develop low-carbon energy technologies.
- Supports the European Council conclusions regarding the need to modernize transport systems through the development of clean technologies, inter alia, electric cars and trains.
- Decides to make climate protection and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions a top priority with respect to EU energy-related legislation introduced in the European parliament.
- Recognizes the need to increase the share of Trans-European Transport Network (Ten-T) investments devoted to electric high speed train infrastructure in all parts of Europe.
- Supports technology neutrality as a guiding principle in relation to energy technologies that do not emit greenhouse gases whilst allowing for focused incentives to enable a range of newer technologies to enter the market. ELDR will support an international electricity supergrid to deliver energy from such technologies to the whole of Europe.
- Supports ending all EU financial support serving as incentives to expand activities that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The commitment applies to all sectors of the European economy, including agriculture, fishery and the transport sector.
- Recognizes that increased use of biofuels, especially in the US, has been one factor contributing to the recent rise in food prices.

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- Recognizes that, in general, the production of renewable energy constitutes both an asset and a liability for the environment, depending on the scale of production, applied technologies and location, and that this applies to the production of biofuels in particular.

- Notes that the climate change package proposed by the European Commission contains insufficient flexibility with respect to the means used by each member state to achieve the required CO2 reductions.

Calls for:

- All tariffs on sugar cane based ethanol to be eliminated.

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