



TRANSATLANTIC-PLATFORM FOR ACTION ON THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT (T-PAGE)

TRANSATLANTIC CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**24 – 25 April 2008
Washington, DC**

Conference Purpose

The EU and US have an essential role to play in taking forward global efforts to address climate change. While there have been some important policy developments in Europe and more recently in the US, the exchange of ideas, lessons and experiences across the Atlantic can often appear to be lacking. There is much to be learnt from experiences on both sides of the Atlantic which can provide invaluable input and insight into domestic policy-making processes.

The Transatlantic Platform for Action on the Global Environment (T-PAGE) was created as a forum to facilitate debate among members of EU and US civil society on climate change and energy issues. This dialogue aims to foster a better level of understanding of what is happening in Europe and the US, how action and policy might differ or converge and what lessons can be learnt from each other's experience. As part of this dialogue, two teleconferences were held in 2007 involving key representatives of EU and US civil society. At the first of these meetings emissions trading, biofuels and carbon capture and storage were highlighted by participants as priorities for debate. At the second meeting, participants discussed these issues in more detail drawing conclusions on their value and limitations as policy tools.

This two-day conference will offer a forum to debate EU and US approaches to CO₂ reduction in transport, the use of cap and trade and biofuels as well as being an opportunity to present the conclusions of this transatlantic dialogue to decision-makers and the general public. It aims to increase understanding of some of the key challenges in climate and energy policy, demystifying the actions being taken to tackle these challenges in Europe and the US. The ultimate objective of this project is to increase the exchange of information and experiences and promote mutual learning between the EU and US on climate change and energy issues. This in turn will inform ongoing policy-making processes and the positions of civil society organisations on both sides of the Atlantic. The conclusions reached at the conference will be presented to the annual EU-US summit taking place in Ljubljana this summer with the intention of influencing both sides' domestic policy agendas.

DRAFT AGENDA

Thursday 24 April - Workshop for experts	
AM	<p>Reducing Emissions in the Transport Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is cap and trade an appropriate mechanism to control emissions from transport? EU and US positions on the inclusion of transport in a cap and trade system, how they differ and why. - Alternatives to trading, including consideration of efficiency standards, carbon intensity targets and biofuels, and how they complement each other. - Solutions for the different sectors - aviation, maritime, road.
PM	<p>Biofuels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on developments in Europe and the US - Thematic issues; including commodity prices, land use, certification etc
Friday 25 April – Public event	
AM	<p>Welcome</p>
	<p>Demystifying Cap and Trade</p> <p>Key Note Presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EU Emissions Trading Scheme and its proposed reform - US proposals for cap-and-trade schemes <p>Debate on the future and alternatives</p>
PM	<p>Breakout groups on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limitations of trading - Alternatives to trading – A case study of biofuels
	<p>Plenary Session with Key Note Speaker</p> <p>Public perceptions and their influence on climate policy developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How practical are the different policy options being considered? - What, if any, are the limits to their development?
	<p>Presentation and discussion of conclusions from breakout groups</p> <p>Final conclusions of the conference</p>