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COP11 T. Union News

(Posted- starting from most recent)

http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8j.EN.pdf

For COP11- December 3rd, 2005

Trade Unions Seek Out Government Delegations at Global Climate Change Meeting in Montreal

Trade unionist attending COP11, the Climate Change Conference in Montreal have launched an effort to contact government delegates from every country in the world over the next week to draw their attention to the need for national frameworks that would address and strengthen the social and employment provisions of their own climate mitigation and adaptation plans.

Winston Gereluk, Public Services International (PSI) is one of the trade union coordinators for the two-week event. He said that each delegation will be hand-delivered an individualized information packet that will identify worker and trade union concerns and recommend government action. The packet also demonstrates how trade unions are tracking government implementation of sustainable development policies for climate change.

“We have just released our second version of the country-by-country profiles on energy and climate change that we initiated last year at the COP10 in Buenos Aires,” said Gereluk. “These profiles contain economic, social and environmental data which allows countries to assess their performance in comparison to other countries, and gives trade unions and other groups in civil society a basis for planning their national actions. (See new profiles for all countries at: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_9b.EN.pdf as well as their comprehensive Annex at: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpS_1.EN.pdf

“We are anticipating the largest-ever trade union delegation to be in attendance during the Week Two of COP11, which is when our on-the-floor lobbying will be most intense. As well, we have timed a number of briefings with targeted governments to coincide with the commencement of Ministerial meetings in the middle of the week”.

The lobby activity will lead up to a Trade Union Side Event at COP11 at 1pm on Wednesday, 7 December (See: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8l.EN.pdf).

At this side event the Governments of Argentina, Belgium, Spain and the UK will showcase frameworks they have established to engage trade unions and other groups in social dialogue and consensus-building. “We believe these to be models that show how employment and other social concerns can become part of any climate change planning.”

“Our lobby effort will promote Trade Union-Employer cooperation for the education of greenhouse gases that relate to the workplace. To realize this goal, we want governments to negotiate a strong Second Commitment Period, once the first Kyoto Period runs out in 2008-2012.

Gereluk said that since the Kyoto Accord was negotiated in 1997 trade unions have encouraged government negotiators to include employment and social transition in policy planning and implementation. “This implies that much more attention needs to be given to worker and trade union involvement in decision-making.”

The Trade Union Statement to COP11, *Preventing Disruption & Enhancing Community Cohesion: Social & Employment Transition for Climate Change*, calls on governments to build social dialogue, social and employment transition into the ‘flexible mechanisms’ of the Kyoto protocol.

The Statement explains that Transition Programs should combine green job creation with re-employment programmes, training and education, and bridging compensation for workers and communities displaced by climate change or programmes to mitigate its effects.

“Sector-by-sector and regional analyses show that turbulent can be predicted in the short term if large numbers of workers lose their jobs and livelihoods, with little access to new jobs that will be created,”

warns the Statement. “This presents a challenge that COP11 must address if it wishes to build public confidence for national efforts to address climate change.”

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), together with the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) are coordinating the trade union delegation at COP11.

For COP11- December 2nd, 2005

Trade Unions Promote Trains at COP 11 and on the Streets of Montreal

Trade unions are taking their message to the streets during the global climate change conference here in Montreal.

Public billboards have made their appearance at strategic sites in the city where the climate change meeting is taking place. They invite viewers to *Think green, think rail.*

Pensons ecologie, pensons chemin de fer
http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8o.EN.pdf

The United Transportation Union (UTU), whose members work on Canada’s railways, has launched its campaign to coincide with the opening of the Montreal Conference.

The campaign promotes the merits of train transportation as a key to national policies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to contribute to sustainable development.

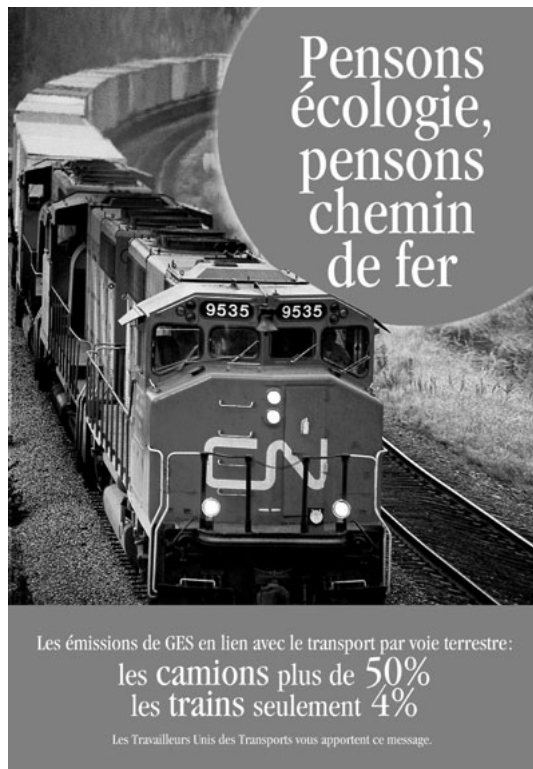
According to Tim Secord, Legislative Director for the Canadian Division of the UTU, this campaign will raise awareness about how rail transport can help climate change implementation strategies. It also demonstrates the belief of trade unions that simple, achievable answers are available to tackle problems facing COP11; i.e., how to decouple economic growth from GHG emissions.

“Our campaign delivers a message of inspiration and hope that trade unions plan to convey at this 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11),” said Secord. “It’s also a ‘natural fit’ for COP 11 where delegates are now discussing climate change in the framework of sustainable development.

“Transportation is one of the largest users of energy and sources of GHG emissions, and is growing more than any other sector, especially in North America, with the largest per capita output of GHG. Trains produce the least GHG emissions of all modes of transport, while moving the majority of people and freight worldwide.

“Our message applies to the whole world, but

mostly to large cities and congested areas where pollution and land use issues are most acute, and where the efficiencies of rail transport have the greatest potential”. The trade union Statement to COP11 suggests that resources currently devoted to private forms of transport could instead go to modern and accessible public systems of inter-city and urban rail



systems, as a basis for redesigning cities and land planning on a human scale.

“Railways and urban rail transit should form the backbone of these public systems yet their use has not made their way into climate mitigation strategies”. Trains could increase the share of public and non-motorized transportation, with considerable savings in greenhouse gas emissions”.

Secord said there valuable lessons exist in countries

where railway transport has served to meet Kyoto targets. Bogotá's bus rapid transit project, *Transmilenio*, is facilitating a switch from private to public transport. Likewise, Sri Lanka's *NTP* highlights the need for energy conservation through reduced use of fossil fuels, and the expansion of mass transportation systems such as the railway services, preferably through electrification.

"Look at the *Beginner's Guide to the UN Framework Convention*, produced by the UNEP/WMO. Local governments could help design better public transport systems and create incentives for people to use them instead of private automobiles".

The UTU train campaign is an example where trade unions, employers and community groups have become involved in implementing the WSSD outcomes and the Marrakesh Accords. "This campaign has become a basis for a partnership proposal with the railway industry in Canada, one that could better focus on investment approaches to promote integrated rail passenger services and freight, within a system that combines all modes of transportation".

At COP 11, the UTU will collaborate with two industry associations, the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Railway Association of Canada (RAC) to host a side event and reception on "The Railway Emission Story" tomorrow, ***Saturday 3 December from 6-8 PM in the Bay du Nord River Room of the Palais des Congress.***

The UTU's approach is one promoted by its counterpart the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) at the 9th Annual Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD9) in 2001. It will take its railway message to trade unionists across Canada in 2006, as part of an awareness-raising educational program that was initiated by the Canadian Labour Congress.

For information about the 'Pensions chemin de fer/ Think Green':

<http://www.utu-canada.com>

For COP11- December 1st, 2005

Trade Unions welcome UK government's climate change campaign

Commenting on the launch of the Climate Change Communications Initiative by Margaret Beckett today, the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress **Brendan Barber** said:

"The TUC welcomes the Government's plans to boost public awareness of the threat of climate change. We will be urging the Government to provide greater support for popular carbon-saving initiatives such as bio-fuels and domestic micro-generators such as wind turbines, which not only cut carbon emissions. but offer great opportunities for UK manufacturing."

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For COP11-November 25, 2005

ETUC Says Countries Must Assume Responsibility for Southern Counterparts

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) demands that greater attention be paid to issues to do with employment and solidarity in the climate negotiations and that the European Union commit itself firmly to a new multilateral agreement that extends the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012.

A sizeable delegation comprising representatives from international trade union organisations, ETUC, and trade unions in Europe and the rest of the world will participate in the 11th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP11) and the 1st Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (MOP1) which will be held in Montreal (Canada), 28 November - 8 December, 2005.

In their official declaration made to the Conference, the unions demand that issues associated with adapting to the effects of climate change feature at the top of the agenda of COP11. Rich countries must not be allowed to shirk their responsibilities, and must deploy the resources required to help the most vulnerable countries face up to this challenge.

ETUC insists that the European Union respect the commitments it made in the Kyoto Protocol to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. *"The EU's sluggish response is a cause for concern. Fulfilling the obligations set out in Kyoto is all about showing solidarity with those people living in the South who are most prone to the effects of climate change. Moreover, the credibility of the Union in international climate negotiations is also on the line,"* said ETUC General Secretary John Monks.

ETUC is also calling on the European Union to commit itself to ensuring that the parties to COP 11 adopt **a road map for the negotiation of a multilateral framework once the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period (2008 to 2012) comes to an end.** The European Union has set itself some ambitious internal targets regarding the long-term reduction of emissions. ETUC believes it must harbour similar ambitions in the international arena.\

ETUC is also of the opinion that any future agreement must set out to limit emissions not only in Europe, but also in the United States, and also to reduce the energy intensity of growth in developing countries, whilst respecting the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities'.

The Kyoto Protocol provides an opportunity to boost employment and achieve social progress both in Europe and around the world. The unions are advocating the establishment of *international sectoral programmes*, entailing joint efforts made by countries in both the North and the South with respect to innovation, investment, vocational training and research in domains such as transport, building and power generation.

All the actors are involved. Social dialogue, consultation and negotiation between employers and unions must be intensified if people's

energies and skills are to be harnessed effectively.

Workplaces burn energy, consume resources and generate waste. Governments must therefore take urgent steps to encourage union participation in the workplace and in national sectoral strategies to tackle climate change.

The Kyoto Protocol also calls for **solidarity**, because the changes that need to be made will not come about if workers fear that their jobs may be on the line. *Employment transition programmes* comprising income support and retraining measures must now be devised in all countries

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For COP11-November 20, 2005

Largest-Ever Trade Union Delegation To Attend World Climate Change Meeting

The largest ever trade union delegation will participate in the upcoming world conference on climate change that will begin next 28 November in Montreal. Nearly 60 trade union representatives from fourteen countries expect to lobby national governments for support of a few key principles that they say will make a significant difference to the success of implementing the climate change provisions of the Kyoto Protocol.

Earlier today the Global Unions released their written submission to government delegations that will be in Montreal for the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The trade union Climate Change submission is available at:

http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8h.EN.pdf .

“Because of very positive initiatives over the last few years between certain trade union bodies and the Governments of *Argentina, Belgium, E.U., Germany, Spain and the U.K.*, trade unions at

COP11 will advance specific proposals to strengthen the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, through national frameworks for social dialogue & consensus building.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) along with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) are together coordinating the delegation at COP11.

Employment & Social Transition is a Top Priority

The trade union bodies say they want governments to promote joint ‘*Trade Union-Employer*’ workplace actions for CO2 reduction, energy conservation and the promotion of alternatives that support worker participation and ILO Core Labour Standards.

The trade unionists want governments to place “employment & social transition” as a central feature of climate implementation. They will promote better research to predict and address the employment and social impacts, in the face of growing fears that climate change will disrupt the livelihood of large segments of the world’s population.

Their submission calls for a strengthening of worker involvement in community actions & decision-making and for support of worker capacity-building, through training & education.

They call on climate change negotiators to design concrete provisions for social & employment issues within the Kyoto’s *Flexible Mechanisms*, as well as for worker participation and employer accountability.

New COP11 Country-By-Country Profiles Released

At COP11 “we will make contact with each and every government delegation”, said their introductory note to them. A copy of each country’s ‘Climate & Energy Profile’ will be hand-delivered to the government delegations showing where they stand on certain climate indicators.

The new country-by-country Profiles for all countries are now available at.
http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_9b.EN.pdf.

Side-Event Planned: “National Frameworks For the World of Work”

The trade unions expect to host a special side-event at COP11 from 1-3 pm on Wednesday 07 December in Room 1. *Environment Ministers from Belgium and Spain* will underscore the value of landmark agreements with trade unions in those countries. See the provisional programme for the side-event at http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8l.EN.pdf.

For COP11-July 05, 2005

Spanish Unions & Business Create Avant-Garde Tripartite Climate Change Plan

A trend-setting framework agreement to institutionalize joint oversight of national compliance to the Kyoto Protocol has been adopted by the Spanish government, along with the leading trade union and business organisations in the country.

A “Framework to Institutionalize and Organise Social Dialogue, related to the Compliance with the Kyoto Protocol” was negotiated and signed late last March in Madrid, according to information recently made available in English. Both the Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras (CC.OO.) and Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT) are party to the agreement, along with the national government and the two leading business organizations in Spain.

The new Framework has been set up in connection to Spain’s climate change ‘National Allocation Plan’, established to guide national efforts to achieve the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol. The Spanish national Framework was set up to strengthen compliance and identify opportunities and adverse impacts, including social and employment impacts of adaptation and mitigation measures.

The agreement creates the first-ever platform for tripartite social dialogue on climate change, bringing the Parties together around an umbrella ‘Dialogue Table’ that will undertake responsibility for monitoring and assessment of issues to guide

national compliance. In the words of the framework document, the Parties believe that Kyoto is an opportunity to build a “sustainable development model and productive system” and to “generate better employment and raise the level of social cohesion”.

A striking feature of the agreement is that it aims to “prevent, avoid or reduce the potentially adverse social effects that could result from the compliance with the Kyoto Protocol, in particular those related to competitiveness and employment.”

The agreement also creates an obligation for the umbrella body to create subsidiary ‘Dialogue Tables’ within seven identified industrial sectors, each with the power and responsibility to act and make recommendations. The Ministries of Finance, Industry, Commerce, Labour and Environment have formal representation in the umbrella Table with appropriate powers and responsibilities to act with designated industrial sectors, covered by subsidiary Tables.

Ripple Effects Anticipated Within Climate Change Circles

Trade union observers outside Spain predict that the new agreement will have far-reaching impacts on international efforts to encourage governments to assess and address social and employment impacts of measures to mitigate or adapt to climate change. They also hope the Spanish initiative will open governments to discussions about how they might set up employment transition measures to care for workers displaced either by climate change or by measures to address it.

The 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the UN Framework for Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) will meet in Montreal, Canada next 29 November to 9 December, at which time a significant trade union delegation is expected to showcase the Spanish example as a realistic model that could be adapted to other countries.

Climate and energy will also be hot topics next year at sessions of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, where trade unions expect to increase the profile of employment and social issues within debates.

Trade unions around the world hope that the Spanish agreement sets the tone for a new level of debate worldwide about what can be done to promote participation of workers in decision-making relating to climate change and sustainable energy usage.

For COP11-July 15, 2005

Belgium's Climate Projects To Include Social Criteria & TUnion Involvement

(Government tender issued for CDM and JI projects)

The recent tender issued by Belgium will undoubtedly inspire trade unions and governments from industrialised countries to revisit their 'flexible mechanisms' criteria for the implementation of Kyoto Protocol, such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and the Joint Implementation (JI) programme.

The Belgium tender for CDM and JI projects is out.

This Belgium call may inspire other trade unions and governments in developed countries, to ensure that the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol will be in benefit of the development of local communities

The Belgium's call for tenders for the acquisition of greenhouse gas emission quotas by financing gas reduction projects abroad includes social criteria and procedures involving trade unions!

In order for Belgium to meet its Kyoto Protocol target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 7.5% in the period 2008-2012 compared with 1990 levels, the country's federal government must acquire greenhouse gas emission quotas from other countries. To do so the federal authorities will invest in JI/CDM projects as defined in the Kyoto Protocol, financed through a budget of €9.3 million from its Kyoto Fund, which is supplied by an electricity consumption tax.

A call for submission of the projects was launched recently (see message attached), which is the

outcome of a process to create a technical committee, involving representatives of the government, employers, NGOs and trade unions.

This committee has issued an opinion, adopted by Belgium's Council of Ministers. It is of considerable significance when viewed from a trade union perspective.

Within the technical committee, union representatives from the countries trade union centers, FGTB and CSC, have stressed the importance of ensuring that social criteria are adhered to for approving projects and respecting their follow-up procedures.

In seeking to achieve a balance between economic, environmental and social criteria, the technical committee's opinion, as communicated to the Council of Ministers, took full account of the need for including social criteria, which include:

- The documentation required for a project to be considered should include a letter of social responsibility, in which the project promoter(s) pledge(s) to respect the principles of the OECD's guidelines for multinationals, the eight ILO basic conventions, Convention 155 on Occupational Health and Safety and Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. The project evaluation criteria should include social sustainability, covering such areas as employment (quality, including quality of employment, compliance with labour standards), equality and access to essential services such as energy services.
- The project evaluation criteria should include economic sustainability, covering employment (quantity: number of jobs created), skills development and so forth.- If a project fails to obtain at least 50% of the points on each criterion, it will be rejected. This means that if a project scores well in all areas except the social criterion, for example, it will be rejected.
- In addition to the 50% minimum requirement for all criteria, the project must also have an overall sustainability rating of at least 60% in order to be considered. If this is the case, the cost of the project will also be taken into account.

- The project promoter must draw up a plan for monitoring the environmental, social and economic impact of the project. If the audit report reveals a discrepancy between any particular aspect and the contents of the initial project and/or the commitments made in the letter of social responsibility, the Belgian government will be entitled to cancel the contract. If the promoter wishes to receive advance funding, the monitoring plan must be implemented with the involvement of all relevant organisations in order to ensure that it is implemented correctly. This means:

- * free and democratic local trade unions or, failing this, an international trade union organisation;
- * local environmental organisations or, failing this, international environmental organisations;
- * local and indigenous communities.

If the promoter does not wish to receive advance funding, the procedure is the same except that the involvement of the relevant organisations is voluntary, rather than obligatory, the aim being to evaluate whether the commitments made have been met.

In order to arrive at a portfolio that is balanced in terms of sustainable development, and to meet commitments regarding technology transfers to developing countries, submitted projects are divided into six categories, including energy efficiency projects, renewable energies, small-scale projects and projects in Africa and Least Developed Countries. Projects with the highest scores in each category are selected.

Although not all union demands have been met, the government's decision means that, in terms of JI/CDM projects funded with money from national coffers (Kyoto Fund), Belgium is the most proactive country to date as regards social and sustainability criteria, the monitoring plan with explicit trade union involvement and the right to terminate the contract if commitments – including those linked to ILO conventions are not met.

Consequently, Belgium is a fine example and potential source of inspiration for other countries that have not yet settled on a tendering procedure. Its system may enable local unions to be involved in monitoring investments, specifically to ensure compliance with the principles of the relevant ILO conventions.

For COP11-May 27, 2005

Historic T.Union Sustainable Development Agreement Signed with Argentina Government

At the end of June, 2005 the 'Confédération Générale du Travail de l'Argentine' (CGT) has signed an agreement with the national government of Argentina to jointly implement agreed measures to address environmental issues. On 6 May, 2005 a first workshop on "The World of Work and Sustainable Development" was hosted by the CGT , with its affiliates to design an initial programme of action, and with a particular emphasis on environmental issues in relation to the promotion of equity issues.

The CGT had co-hosted a trade union workshop with SustainLabour on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) last December at the global climate change meeting (COP10). Through this agreement with the government, the CGT and its affiliates will become involved for the first time, in dealing with environmental issues .

La CGT y la Secretaría de ambiente se únen para articular campaña de educación ambiental en cines y teatros porteños

Será a partir de mañana y se extenderá hasta Diciembre, en las principales salas de espectáculos públicos de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires.

Bajo el lema “Un Desarrollo Sustentable para un Trabajo Sostenido”, la Confederación General del Trabajo junto a la Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de La Nación, repartirán material relacionado con la preservación del ambiente, como factor de cuidado del empleo ambientalmente sustentable.

La campaña, diseñada para informar a la población sobre la necesidad de generar acciones inmediatas que garanticen el cuidado de los recursos naturales y su relación con el trabajo “es algo que propone una novedosa lógica respecto de la visión que usualmente se tiene del desarrollo productivo en Argentina”, declaró Miguel Ángel Paniagua,

Secretario General del Sindicato Único de Trabajadores de Espectáculos Públicos de la Republica Argentina (SUTEP)

Precisamente serán los responsables de este Sindicato quienes, junto a autoridades de la cartera ambiental, se harán presentes para el lanzamiento, a realizarse mañana a las 21 hs., en Corrientes 860 frente al Teatro Opera.

La iniciativa es la primera de una serie de actividades programadas, a partir de la suscripción de un Acuerdo Marco de Cooperación entre ambos organismos desde Julio de este año.

Representando al Ministerio de Salud y Ambiente, el Lic. Luis Couyoupetrou, Subsecretario de Planificación, Ordenamiento y Calidad Ambiental de la Nación destacó que “El nuevo análisis político es Trabajo y Ambiente y es la base de la política de Estado, que tienda a afirmar una Nueva Cultura Ambiental Nacional para todos los argentinos”, concluyo