

Climate Change

Commitment

“We will advance the global effort to tackle climate change at the UN Climate Change Conference in Montreal later this year. Those of us who have ratified the Kyoto Protocol remain committed to it, and will continue to work to make it a success”

-Chairman's Summary (final press conference)⁹⁹⁵

Background

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is one of the three treaties that were adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Since the first Conference of the Parties (COP1) of the UNFCCC in 1995, it has been the primary international venue for negotiations on mitigating impacts of climate change. At COP3 in 1997 all parties adopted the Kyoto Protocol which established legally-binding targets for reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by developed nations as well as several mechanisms for mitigating the cost of those reductions. The Protocol came into force on 16 February 2005 after ratification by the Russian Federation in November 2004, and in early 2005 the Canadian Government offered to host COP11 in Montreal from 28 November 2005 to 9 December 2005. This meeting was to be a historic one because parallel to it (indeed, in the same venue) would be held the first Conference of the Parties acting as Members of the Protocol (COP/MOP1), the first meeting of the 128 Parties that had ratified the Kyoto Protocol. Absent from COP/MOP1 was the United States, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, whose government has yet to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

This is the context in which the G8's climate change commitments were made. The commitment to act at the UN Climate Change Conference (as the combined COP11 and COP/MOP1 meetings were called) was significant as fears existed that US cooling to the UNFCCC process would stall further negotiations. The G8 members' recommitment to the Kyoto Protocol process of binding emissions reduction targets indicated a high level of political support by those G8 members that had ratified the Protocol.

All G8 member states did participate in the UN Climate Change Conference and all accepted a total of over forty key agreements. As dictated procedurally, those agreed to under the COP did include the United States and those under the COP/MOP did not. The most significant agreements that were reached included the adoption of the 2001 Marrakech Accords (the so-called 'Kyoto Rulebook' which established how many of the Protocol's mechanisms would be enforced) and agreement for movement forward on post-2012 emissions reduction negotiations.

There has, however, been some concern registered by a number of governments and non-governmental organizations about the January 2005 meeting of the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, which was established in July 2005 shortly after the Gleneagles G8 Summit and includes G8 members Japan and the United States. Some have suggested that this meeting would undermine the UNFCCC process which G8 member states recommitted to at Gleneagles, but it is as yet too early to assess the outcomes of that meeting.

Team Leader: Brian Kolenda

⁹⁹⁵ Chair's Summary, 2005 G8 Gleneagles Summit, (Gleneagles), July 2005. Date of Access: 20 January 2006. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/summary.html>.

Assessment

Score	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Country			
<i>Canada</i>			+1
<i>France</i>			+1
<i>Germany</i>			+1
<i>Italy</i>			+1
<i>Japan</i>			+1
<i>Russia</i>			+1
<i>United Kingdom</i>			+1
<i>United States</i>			+1
<i>European Union</i>			+1
Overall			1.00

Individual Country Compliance Breakdown

1. Canada: +1

As host of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2005, as well as in its own capacity, The Canadian government continued to move forward on climate change issues since the Gleneagles Summit and has thus far demonstrated full interim compliance with its Gleneagles commitments. Canada has acted in support of the Kyoto Protocol, both domestically and internationally, in spite of its well-documented poor record on meeting its Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions targets.

Canada fully complied with its commitment to work at the UN Climate Change Conference in November and December 2005, particularly as hosts of the Conference. Canadian Minister of Environment Stéphane Dion re-announced on 27 November 2005 the Canadian Government's plans to make it the first carbon-neutral conference via the retiring "of approximately 10,000 tonnes of certified emission reduction credits from Canadian-generated wind power."⁹⁹⁶ Canada and the other delegates adopted more than 40 key decisions aimed at combating climate change.⁹⁹⁷ The Canadian government also announced the signing of six joint agreements, mainly memoranda of understanding, which relate to the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation with Mexico, India, Morocco, the Czech Republic, Indonesia, and Ukraine on 8 December 2005.⁹⁹⁸

Ottawa reduced emissions from a variety of sources since the Gleneagles Summit, with the goal of meeting its Kyoto emissions reduction targets. On 16 July 2005, the Canadian government published the Notice of Intent to Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Large Final Emitters.⁹⁹⁹ In August, the Canadian government created the Offset System which will "reward innovation and provide incentives to

⁹⁹⁶ Minister Dion Announces United Nations Climate Change Conference will be Carbon Neutral, Government of Canada, (Montreal), 27 November 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/051127_n_e.htm.

⁹⁹⁷ The Montreal Action Plan, Notes for an Address by the Honourable Stéphane Dion, President, UN Climate Change Conference Closing of Joint High-level Segment, Government of Canada, (Montreal), 10 December 2005. Date of Access: 5 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/minister/speeches/2005/051210_s_e.htm.

⁹⁹⁸ Canada Signs Six Bilateral Agreements on Climate Change, Government of Canada, (Ottawa), 8 December 2005. Date of Access: 5 January 2005. <http://www.montreal2005.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=08B5F96E-1>.

⁹⁹⁹ Government of Canada Publishes Path Forward on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Large Industrial Sources, Government of Canada, (Ottawa), 15 July 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/050716_n_e.htm.

reduce GHG emissions”.¹⁰⁰⁰ On October 3rd 2005, new legislation was passed by Parliament to establish the Climate Fund Agency, which will begin to purchase Kyoto units and credits created by Canada’s own Domestic Offsets System on 31 March 2006. With adequate funding it is predicted that “purchases by the Climate Fund could yield reductions of between 75 and 115 megatonnes [of CO₂-equivalent emissions] annually between 2008 and 2012”.¹⁰⁰¹ Dion and John McCallum, Canadian Minister of Natural Resources, announced on 17 November 2005 additional efforts to build on activities of carbon dioxide capture and storage.¹⁰⁰² On the following day, Dion and McCallum announced the creation of a partnership with the province of Prince Edward Island and private sector actors to increase the amount of wind energy produced in Canada.¹⁰⁰³ Dion, on 27 November 2005, announced that in order to “mitigate climate change”, the government of Canada would also invest CAD\$2.7 million in research on the potential role of prairie wetlands and agricultural lands as carbon sinks and in reducing GHG emissions.”¹⁰⁰⁴ Furthermore, on 22 November 2005, in an effort to strengthen regulation, the Canadian government added six greenhouse gases to Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999, allowing “for the introduction later in 2006 and implementation of regulations to ensure large industrial emitters meet their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 megatonnes by 2008-2012.”¹⁰⁰⁵

However, Canada has yet to show significant progress on reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, which have risen by 24% above 1990 levels, according to Canada’s National Inventory Report 1990-2003, far above Canada’s 6% reductions target.¹⁰⁰⁶ The failure is alongside other means through which the government of Canada has supported the Kyoto Protocol. For example, Mr. Dion travelled to several nations to discuss climate change and cooperation and met with the president of the World Bank to discuss the organization’s climate change program.¹⁰⁰⁷ Furthermore, during the Montreal Conference, Canada involved a wide range of groups and actors, including Canadian and international youth, with a parallel International Youth Summit on Climate Change, giving them the opportunity to present a Youth Declaration at the high-level Ministerial Session of the Conference.¹⁰⁰⁸ Voice was also given to the Arctic populations as Canada and the Arctic Council presented a statement on climate change in the Arctic during the High-Level Segment on 9 December 2005, to highlight the effects of global warming that have already begun to manifest themselves in Canada’s north.¹⁰⁰⁹ The Canadian government also sought the ideas and recommendations of 20 corporations representing a broad cross-section of the Canadian economy on the subjects of climate change and energy.¹⁰¹⁰

Analyst: Melissa Fourage

¹⁰⁰⁰ Government of Canada Moves to Create a Market for Emission Reductions in all Sectors of the Economy, Environment Canada, (Ottawa), 11 August 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/050811_n_e.htm.

¹⁰⁰¹ Appointment of Climate Fund President Designate Marks Launch of New Agency, Environment Canada, (Ottawa), 10 November 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/051110_n_e.htm.

¹⁰⁰² Government of Canada affirms commitment to investing in international efforts to address climate change, Environment Canada, (Ottawa), 17 November 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/051117_n_e.htm.

¹⁰⁰³ Government of Canada and Prince Edward Island are Working With Partners to Reduce GHGs, Government of Canada, (Charlottetown), 18 November 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/051118_n_e.htm.

¹⁰⁰⁴ Government of Canada Provides Funding for Prairie Climate Change Research, Government of Canada, (Ottawa), 21 November 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/051121-2_n_e.htm.

¹⁰⁰⁵ The Government of Canada Takes a Significant Step to Implement Its Climate Change Plan and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Government of Canada, (Ottawa), 22 November 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/051122_n_e.htm.

¹⁰⁰⁶ Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators, Government of Canada, (Ottawa), 14 December 2005. Date of Access: 11 January 2006. <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/16-251-XIE/16-251-XIE2005000.pdf>.

¹⁰⁰⁷ Canada’s Environment Minister to Visit Washington, D.C., Environment Canada, (Ottawa), 11 August 2005. Date of Access: 5 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/050811_m_e.htm.

¹⁰⁰⁸ Minister Dion Opens International Youth Summit on Climate Change, Environment Canada, (Montreal), 24 November 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/051124_n_e.htm.

¹⁰⁰⁹ Canada Joins Arctic Nations in Statement on Climate Change in the Arctic, Government of Canada, (Montreal), 9 December 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/051209_n_e.htm.

¹⁰¹⁰ Canada’s Corporate Leaders: Call to Action on Climate Protection, Energy and Sustainable Development, Government of Canada, (Ottawa), 8 December 2005. Date of Access: 5 January 2006. <http://www.montreal2005.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=EB45E63C-1>.

2. France: +1

The French government continued to push forward on the issue of climate change in an attempt to meet and surpass its Kyoto targets and has thus demonstrated full compliance with its Gleneagles climate change commitments.¹⁰¹¹ The French government sent a delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference from November to December 2005 and has taken a number of actions to promote the Kyoto protocol and its own GHG emissions reductions targets within France.

France has taken significant action in the international community to combat climate change. A French delegation attended the UN Climate Change Conference in Montreal, where it presented its own climate plan and progress to date, helping to mobilize the international community.¹⁰¹² With the Kyoto Protocol's 158 other signatories, France "approved crucial decisions on strengthening the treaty's mechanisms... [and] agreed to launch negotiations from next May on cutting greenhouse gas pollution beyond 2012, when the present Kyoto pledges run out."¹⁰¹³ The French government also hosted the Third World Forum on Sustainable Development in Paris on 2 December 2005, where the participants focused their discussion on climate change.¹⁰¹⁴

Beyond verbal reiteration of France's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol, the French government recently expanded its National Climate Plan and began new regulatory and legislative initiatives to tackle GHG emissions and meet its Kyoto targets. New initiatives have been added on to the National Climate Plan originally introduced in July 2004 by the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, and the Minister, Nelly Olin, announced that an updated Climate Plan 2006 will be released mid-2006.¹⁰¹⁵ A number of new financial measures to encourage the use of cleaner energy were announced by Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin at the end of 2005, including higher tax credits for the use of renewable energy or products with low CO₂ emissions, both in the areas of housing and vehicles.¹⁰¹⁶

On 6 January 2006, Olin demonstrated a new vehicle labelling program that will be mandatory as of 10 May 2006, which will require all vehicles in France to be labelled on a scale of A to G indicating levels of CO₂ emissions. The program will be expanded to all types of housing by 1 July 2007, and France's two biggest car manufacturers, Renault and PSA, have already begun the use of the labelling program ahead of the May 2006 deadline.¹⁰¹⁷ The research effort on clean transportation technology has also been reinforced by the government's announcement in September 2005 of a €100 million research program which has as its goal the development of a small, fuel efficient vehicle that is low in CO₂ emissions and other pollutants by the end of the decade.¹⁰¹⁸ In addition, Olin has announced that a government television and radio campaign, launched in 2004 to sensitize citizens to the issue of global warming, will be extended in 2006 to encourage individuals to work towards France's Kyoto emissions reduction targets.¹⁰¹⁹

¹⁰¹¹ Rendez-Vous Climat 2005: Discours de Madame Nelly OLIN, Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable, (Paris), 14 November 2005. Date of Access: 13 December 2005. http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=4810.

¹⁰¹² 11ème Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques et première Réunion des Parties au Protocole de Kyoto, Mission Interministérielle de l'Effet de Serre, (Paris), 28 November to 9 December 2005. Date of Access: 5 January 2006. http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/DPCOP_11_1.pdf.

¹⁰¹³ Most of Europe Set to Miss Kyoto Goals: Study, Agence France Presse, (London), 27 December 2005. Date of Access: 5 January 2006. <http://www.nri-consulting.com/G8News/G8NewsSearch.aspx>.

¹⁰¹⁴ Message de M. Jacques CHIRAC, Président de la République, adressé aux participants au troisième Forum mondial du développement durable à Paris, Présidence de la République, (Paris), 2 December 2005. Date of Access : 5 January 2005. http://www.elysee.fr/elysee/francais/interventions/lettres_et_messages/2005/decembre/message_du_president_de_la_republique_a_u_troisieme_forum_mondial_du_developpement_durable.33337.html.

¹⁰¹⁵ Rendez-Vous Climat 2005: Discours de Madame Nelly OLIN, Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable, (Paris), 14 November 2005. Date of Access: 13 December 2005. http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=4810.

¹⁰¹⁶ Premier Bilan et Contribution aux Débats du Rendez-Vous Climat 2005, Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable, (Paris), 22 November 2005. Date of Access: 5 January 2006. <http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/bilan22112005.pdf>.

¹⁰¹⁷ Etiquette-énergie : un dispositif simple et efficace, Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable, (Paris), 6 January 2006. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=4996.

¹⁰¹⁸ Premier Bilan et Contribution aux Débats du Rendez-Vous Climat 2005, Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable, (Paris), 22 November 2005. Date of Access: 5 January 2006. <http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/bilan22112005.pdf>.

¹⁰¹⁹ Rendez-Vous Climat 2005: Discours de Madame Nelly OLIN, Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable, (Paris), 14 November 2005. Date of Access: 13 December 2005. http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=4810.

The French government has also acted quickly to implement the European Union Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS) Linking Directive into national legislation, which sets out rules for participation in the scheme by French firms and was signed into law on October 26.¹⁰²⁰ The first meeting of the “Facteur 4” occurred in early September, with the objective of creating and evaluating ways of diminishing greenhouse gas emissions fourfold by 2050. The group has met three additional times since.¹⁰²¹ At the national level, Olin held the “Rendez-Vous Climat 2005” in mid-November to mobilize a variety of stakeholders who have an interest in climate change, including various ministerial departments and civil society actors (such as NGOs, firms, and locally elected officials).¹⁰²²

Analyst: Melissa Fourage

3. Germany: +1

The government of Germany acted comprehensively towards fulfilling its Gleneagles climate change commitments. It attended the Montreal UN Climate Change Conference and has instituted a number of policies that move it closer to fulfilling its Kyoto Protocol-mandated GHG emissions reductions targets.

The German delegation attended the COP11 and COP/MOP1 meetings in Montreal and negotiated with its European Union allies as a single bloc. Along with the other Parties, they agreed to a series of reforms that “continue[d] the course of the Kyoto Protocol” and set in motion a process for post-2012 commitments”.¹⁰²³ Indeed, on 8 December 2005, just before the conclusion of the Montreal conference, Federal Minister of Environment Sigmar Gabriel announced the signing of a partnership to develop Clean Development Mechanism (a key Kyoto mechanism) projects between Germany and Mexico.¹⁰²⁴

Throughout the Conference, Gabriel reiterated Germany’s position in support of the Kyoto Protocol, saying that Parties to the UNFCCC “need to build upon Kyoto, not ... replace it”.¹⁰²⁵ The German government has also demonstrated its commitment to the Protocol by introducing a number of policies designed to reduce GHG emissions in the months after the Gleneagles G8 Summit. The government published the National Climate Protection Programme (NCP) 2005 shortly after the Summit, which outlined measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the 2008-2012 period and establish “further ambitious environmental policies after 2012.”¹⁰²⁶ Even though Germany has attained considerable reductions in GHG emissions over 1990 levels, the NCP sets out an ambitious plan for reductions of 30% by 2020.¹⁰²⁷

Analyst: Afsheen Lalani

¹⁰²⁰ 11ème Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques et première Réunion des Parties au Protocole de Kyoto, Mission Interministérielle de l'Effet de Serre, (Paris), 28 November to 9 December 2005. Date of Access: 5 January 2006. http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/DPCOP_11_1.pdf.

¹⁰²¹ Les travaux du groupe de travail sur la division par quatre des émissions de gaz à effet de serre de la France, à l'horizon 2050, dit “facteur 4”, DGEMP-Observatoire de l'Energie, Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de l'Industrie, (Paris), Date Unknown. Date of Access: 28 December 2005. <http://www.industrie.gouv.fr/energie/prospect/facteur4.htm>.

¹⁰²² Conférence de presse « Plan Climat Territorial » : discours de Madame Nelly OLIN, Ministère de l'Écologie et du Développement Durable, (Paris), 22 November 2005. Date of Access: 28 December 2005. http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=4872.

¹⁰²³ Federal Environment Minister Gabriel: Climate Change Conference incentive and commitment for Germany's leading role in climate protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, (Berlin), 12 December 2005. Date of Access: 15 January 2006. http://www.bmu.de/english/climate/press_statements_speeches/pm/36418.php.

¹⁰²⁴ The beginning of a partnership in climate protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, (Berlin), 12 December 2005. Date of Access: 15 January 2006. http://www.bmu.de/english/press_statements_speeches/doc/36392.php.

¹⁰²⁵ We need to build upon Kyoto, not replace it, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, (Berlin), 12 December 2005. Date of Access: 15 January 2006. http://www.bmu.de/english/press_statements_speeches/doc/36364.php.

¹⁰²⁶ The National Climate Protection Programme 2005, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, 15 July 2005. Date of Access: 20 December 2005. <https://www.bmu.de/english/climate/downloads/doc/35833.php>.

¹⁰²⁷ The National Climate Protection Programme 2005, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, 15 July 2005. Date of Access: 20 December 2005. <https://www.bmu.de/english/climate/downloads/doc/35833.php>.

4. Italy: +1

The Italian government complied with Gleneagles' climate change commitments through participation in the United Nations Climate Change Conference and initiating several programs aimed at reducing GHG emissions to meet its Kyoto Protocol target of 8 percent below 1990 levels.

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal, the Italian government, with its EU counterparts, signed a number of key agreements including a reinforcement of the Clean Development Mechanism, the details of a five-year program on adaptation, and the so-called Marrakech Accords.¹⁰²⁸ This full participation at the Conference fulfils a key portion of the Italian government's Gleneagles commitment.

The Italian government has also undertaken a number of actions in support of the Kyoto Protocol. On 19 October 2005, Altero Matteoli, the Italian Minister of the Environment, announced a new anti-smog strategy under which €20 million would be spent by the Italian government on incentives for Italian automobile owners to convert gasoline-powered vehicles to run on natural gas or methane and construct distribution centres for those fuels. Under this scheme, some 40,000 automobiles are expected to be converted to fuels that emit less greenhouse gases.¹⁰²⁹ In December 2005, the European Commission approved a contribution of €853,000 to help operate the ratified Kyoto Protocol Clean Development Mechanism and establish the International Registry System, which, through Italy's status as a Member State of the EU, can be regarded as Italian compliance to its commitment to support the Protocol.¹⁰³⁰ In October 2005, the second phase of European Climate Change Plan came into force, which began new programs aimed at tackling issues related to "carbon capture and storage, emissions from road vehicles, aviation and strategies to adapt to the effects of climate change."¹⁰³¹

Analyst: Ayako Yamamoto

5. Japan: +1

The Japanese government registered full interim compliance with its Gleneagles climate change commitments.

Tokyo fulfilled its commitment to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal. The Japanese government signed, along with all other Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, various agreements, including reforms to the Clean Development Mechanism, details of a five-year program on adaptation, and the Marrakech Accords.¹⁰³²

On 28 September 2005, Japan launched the Voluntary Emissions Trading Scheme, under which 34 selected companies and corporate groups are required to commit to their own targets on the reduction of greenhouse emissions, in exchange for subsidization of "the installation cost of CO₂ emissions reduction equipment to help businesses that are actively attempting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions" by the Ministry of Environment.¹⁰³³

¹⁰²⁸ Climate Change: successful conclusion of UN conference in Montreal – statement by Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas, European Commission, (Brussels), 10 December 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/473&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

¹⁰²⁹ Smog: in arrivo incentive di 350 euro per convertire auto a GPL e Metano, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio, (Rome), 19 October 2005. Date of Access: 8 January 2006. http://www2.minambiente.it/Sito/comunicati/2005/19_10_05.asp.

¹⁰³⁰ Supporting Kyoto's Flexible Mechanisms and Technology Transfer, European Environment Press, (Brussels), 27 December 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. <http://www.eep.org/newsletters/newsletter271205.htm>.

¹⁰³¹ Communication from the Commission: Report on Demonstratable Progress under the Kyoto Protocol, European Commission, (Brussels), 1 December 2005. Date of Access: 2 January 2006. http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/pdf/demonstrable_progress_kyoto_2005.pdf.

¹⁰³² Summary and Evaluation of COP11 and COP/MOP1, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment, (Tokyo), 10 December 2005. Date of Access: 3 January 2006. <http://www.env.go.jp/earth/cop/cop11/hyoka.pdf>.

¹⁰³³ Japan Launches Voluntary Emissions Trading Scheme, International Emissions Trading Association, September 28 2005, (Geneva), Date of Access: 30 December 2005. <http://www.ieta.org/ieta/www/pages/index.php?IdSitePage=962>.

The Japanese Ministry of Environment's most ambitious plan is a comprehensive Environmental Tax that was announced on 25 October 2005. A revision of a 2004 plan, the Japanese government now plans to introduce a comprehensive tax on consumption-related GHG emissions generated by end-users of energy by January 2007.¹⁰³⁴ The plan will create a tax on all carbon of about JPY2, 400 per ton of atmospheric emissions and is expected to contribute to a decrease in GHG emissions by 3.5% over 1990 levels.¹⁰³⁵ Annual tax revenues will be reinvested to fund research into energy efficient technologies.¹⁰³⁶

In July 2005, following the Gleneagles Summit, Japan signed the pact creating the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate.¹⁰³⁷ The group met from 11-12 January 2006 and has been criticized by some countries and environmental groups as an avoidance of Kyoto emissions reduction targets and as a challenge to the UNFCCC process on climate change.¹⁰³⁸ In spite of this, it appears that Japanese action through that partnership, particularly the creation of "taskforces in which governments and businesses create action plans to cut global warming emissions in sectors such as aluminium, cement, steel and power" may be successful in complementing Japan's Kyoto emissions reduction targets.¹⁰³⁹

Analyst: Ayako Yamamoto

6. Russia: +1

In spite of some criticism, the Russian government registered full compliance with one aspect of its commitment – to attend the UN Climate Change Conference in November – December 2005.

Moscow sent a delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference in Montreal, where it agreed to over forty decisions regarding global efforts to fight climate change, as well as new agreements to deal with the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.¹⁰⁴⁰ It was, however, widely reported that the Russian delegation blocked an agreement that referred to the extension of the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012.¹⁰⁴¹ At the end of the conference, Russian chief negotiator Alexander Bedritsky claimed that "the document as it stands now does not command consensus,"¹⁰⁴² and requested the addition of "a mechanism for the approval of voluntary targets by non-Annex 1 countries."¹⁰⁴³

As a signatory of the Kyoto Protocol, the Russian government has ratified the Protocol but is exempted from any emissions reduction targets.¹⁰⁴⁴ Registering Russian compliance on the second part of its Gleneagles commitment to 'continue to work to make the Kyoto Protocol a success' thus must be seen in

¹⁰³⁴ Detailed Plan for Environmental Taxes (Basic Outline), Ministry of Environment in Japan, (Tokyo), 25 October 2005, Date of Access: 3 January 2006

<http://www.env.go.jp/en/topic/cc/taxol051025.pdf>.

¹⁰³⁵ Detailed Plan for Environmental Taxes (Basic Outline), Ministry of Environment in Japan, (Tokyo), 25 October 2005. Date of Access: 3 January 2006.

<http://www.env.go.jp/en/topic/cc/taxol051025.pdf>.

¹⁰³⁶ Detailed Plan for Environmental Taxes (Basic Outline), Ministry of Environment in Japan, (Tokyo), 25 October 2005. Date of Access: 3 January 2006. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/topic/cc/taxol051025.pdf>.

¹⁰³⁷ Japan Wants All Nations in Post-Kyoto Deal, Environmental News Network, (Arlington, VA), 31 October 2005. Date of Access: 30 December 2005. <http://www.enr.com/today.html?id=9137>.

¹⁰³⁸ \$445m for cleaner energy, but it won't stop climate change, The Age, (Melbourne), 12 January 2006. Date of Access: 12 January 2006. http://www.nbr.co.nz/home/column_article.asp?id=14048&cid=4&cname=Business%20Today.

¹⁰³⁹ \$445m for cleaner energy, but it won't stop climate change, The Age, (Melbourne), 12 January 2006. Date of Access: 12 January 2006. http://www.nbr.co.nz/home/column_article.asp?id=14048&cid=4&cname=Business%20Today.

¹⁰⁴⁰ United Nations Climate Change Conference agrees on future critical steps to tackle climate change, UNFCCC Secretariat, (Montreal), 10 December 2005. Date of Access: 11 January 2006.

http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/press051210_cop11.pdf.

¹⁰⁴¹ Vitelli, Alessandro. "Climate conference delivers agreement on twin-track talks." Platts Commodity News. 11 December 2005

¹⁰⁴² Russia Blocks U.N. Climate Summit Accord, MosNews.com, (Moscow), 10 December 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. <http://www.mosnews.com/news/2005/12/10/climatesummit.shtml>.

¹⁰⁴³ Vitelli, Alessandro. "Climate conference delivers agreement on twin-track talks." Platts Commodity News. 11 December 2005.

¹⁰⁴⁴ Russia may earn \$1.5 billion through CO2 emissions trading – UES, RIA Novosti, (Moscow), 16 September 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. <http://en.rian.ru/business/20050916/41413466.html>.

the context of Article 10 of the Kyoto Protocol, which calls for all signatories to act to stabilize emissions and to take voluntary measures to reduce emissions.¹⁰⁴⁵

There have been few major statements or actions in support of the Kyoto Protocol or its objectives by the Russian government since Gleneagles, but particularly since the Russian government's announcement of its National Action Plan on the Kyoto Protocol in March 2005.¹⁰⁴⁶ The interdepartmental commission of Russia's Cabinet responsible for implementation of the Kyoto Protocol sealed "draft rulings on greenhouse gas emission accounting and on responsibility segregation concerning the progress in Kyoto efforts" on 14 November 2005 and set out guidelines of a further bill on Kyoto implementation.¹⁰⁴⁷ However, Mr. Vladimir Berdin of Russia's Center for Preparation and Implementation of International Projects on Technical Assistance outlined in a September 2005 presentation that while a climate change cooperation scheme with the European Union had been started in the Summer of 2005,¹⁰⁴⁸ most regulatory action and cooperation with other countries is still either in a planning or negotiating phase, particularly with regards to Joint Implementation projects.¹⁰⁴⁹

Analyst: Stephanie Law

7. United Kingdom: +1

The government of the United Kingdom registered full compliance with its Gleneagles Summit commitments related to climate change. From 1-2 November 2005 the UK government hosted the first Ministerial meeting of the Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development that was launched at Gleneagles. The UK government invited G8 energy and environment ministers and officials to meet and coordinate policy and organize international movement forward on climate change. The group reiterated support for discussion at the UN Climate Change Conference that was to start later that month.¹⁰⁵⁰ The UK delegation led European Union negotiators at the UN Climate Change Conference in Montreal from 29 November to 9 December 2005, and along with the other parties to the Kyoto Protocol signed a number of key agreements.¹⁰⁵¹

On 7 September 2005, UK Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Margaret Beckett reiterated a commitment made in March 2005 that aims to allow, by April 2006, all UK Government Departments to make carbon offset investments for all departmental and ministerial air travel.¹⁰⁵² On 12 September 2005, Elliott Morely, UK Government minister for climate change and environment, urged individuals to use a UK government-supported scheme introduced by British Airways to offset emissions from air travel.¹⁰⁵³ Following this strategy, Ms. Beckett and Transport Secretary Alistair Darling announced UK support for the inclusion of aviation emissions in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).¹⁰⁵⁴ On 29 October 2005, Mr. Elliot Morley, UK Minister of State for Climate Change and the Environment announced the introduction in Parliament of a set of regulations to bring the UK in line with

¹⁰⁴⁵ Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC Secretariat, (Bonn), 10 December 1997. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. http://unfccc.int/essential_background/kyoto_protocol/items/1678.php.

¹⁰⁴⁶ Berdin, Vladimir. Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in Russia, International Energy Agency, (Paris), September 2005: p. 3.

¹⁰⁴⁷ Russia Prepared for Restricted Consumption of Power Energy, Kommersant, (Moscow), 16 November 2005. Date of Access: 11 January 2006. <http://www.kommersant.com/page.asp?id=626774>.

¹⁰⁴⁸ Berdin, Vladimir. Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in Russia, International Energy Agency, (Paris), September 2005, p. 3. Date of Access: 11 January 2006.

¹⁰⁴⁹ Berdin, Vladimir. Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in Russia, International Energy Agency, (Paris), September 2005, p. 6. Date of Access: 11 January 2006.

¹⁰⁵⁰ Chairman's Conclusions, 10 Downing Street, (London), 1 November 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006.

http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/environment/env_energy051101.htm.

¹⁰⁵¹ United Nations Climate Change Conference agrees on future critical steps to tackle climate change, UNFCCC Secretariat, (Montreal), 10 December 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006.

http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/press051210_cop11.pdf.

¹⁰⁵² Securing the Future: Prime Minister Launches New UK Sustainable Development Strategy, Department of Food and Rural Affairs, (London), 7 March 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2005/050307b.htm>.

¹⁰⁵³ Carbon Offset Scheme Launched, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (London), 12 September 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2005/050912b.htm>.

¹⁰⁵⁴ UK Backs European Commission to Include Aviation Emissions in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (London), 27 September 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2005/050927a.htm>.

the EU's so-called Linking Directive, which sets out rules for the participation in the EU ETS by British firms.¹⁰⁵⁵ Finally, on 1 December 2005, the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs launched its Tomorrow's Climate, Today's Challenge campaign, that will last three years and will provide £6 million to fund projects run by local private organizations to raise awareness of climate change and promote attitudinal change.¹⁰⁵⁶

The UK Government announced on 5 September 2005 that it will extend funding of £2.5 million for 2006 and 2007 for the Renewable Energy And Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP),¹⁰⁵⁷ an international NGO that "is to accelerate the marketplace for renewable energy and energy efficiency."¹⁰⁵⁸

Finally, the United Kingdom both attended and hosted several international conferences to parallel and complement its efforts at the Montreal Conference to promote the Kyoto Protocol's objectives. On 19 August 2005, Mr. Morley attended the informal Danish-organized Greenland Dialogue on Climate Change along with representatives from 19 other countries and spoke to the "urgency of the climate change challenge", reiterating the UK's commitments to tackle this issue.¹⁰⁵⁹ From 5-6 October 2005, the UK government hosted the conference Climate Change: The Business Forecast which invited over 300 delegates from "businesses in the UK, EU, G8 and the key emerging markets" to discuss climate change issues that were then used as input for the G8+Dialogue and the UN Climate Change Conference.¹⁰⁶⁰ Following the G8 ministerial meeting held from 1-2 November, the UK additionally invited representatives from forty nations to the International Energy Efficiency conference from 2-3 November. The latter conference dealt with issues related to the European Commission Green Paper on energy efficiency and sought to develop international consensus around those issues.¹⁰⁶¹

Analyst: Brian Kolenda

8. United States: +1

The United States government registered full compliance with its Gleneagles commitment to "advance the global effort to tackle climate change at the UN Climate Change Conference in Montreal." While it signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, the United States has not yet ratified the global climate pact and so is exempt from the second part of the G8 Gleneagles climate change commitment, which calls for support of the Kyoto Protocol only by those who have ratified the agreement.

Washington sent a delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference in Montreal. However, the US government has been accused by many environmental campaigners of impeding global efforts in tackling climate change problems at the Conference.¹⁰⁶² The US delegation rejected a proposal from conference president and Canadian Environment Minister Stephane Dion, "to undertake a dialogue on future commitments under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change."¹⁰⁶³ Refusing to be included in broader negotiations on future commitments, Mr. Harlan Watson, the chief US negotiator, left the Conference early on 2 December 2005, which was scheduled to be the last date of the

¹⁰⁵⁵ UK Issues Regulations Transposing the Linking Directive, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (London), 19 October 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2005/051019d.htm>.

¹⁰⁵⁶ Climate Change Communications Program Launched by Defra, Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership, (London), 1 December 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. http://www.lowcvp.org.uk/newsandevents/news.cfm?news_id=314.

¹⁰⁵⁷ Factsheet: New Developments in UK Activities in Support of Gleneagles Plan of Action, 10 Downing Street, (London), 1 November 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/environment/env_energy051101-facts.htm.

¹⁰⁵⁸ About REEEP, Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Partnership, (Vienna), Date Unknown, Date Accessed: 6 January 2006. <http://www.reeep.org/index.cfm?articleid=2>.

¹⁰⁵⁹ Environment and Agriculture Ministers Head for London – and Sustainability, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (London), 7 September 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2005/050819a.htm>.

¹⁰⁶⁰ Environment and Agriculture Ministers Head for London – and Sustainability, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (London), 7 September 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2005/051101b.htm>.

¹⁰⁶¹ Factsheet: New Developments in UK Activities in Support of Gleneagles Plan of Action, 10 Downing Street, (London), 1 November 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/environment/env_energy051101-facts.htm.

¹⁰⁶² Ghoreishi, Omid. Climate Change Conference Ends with Key Agreement, The Epoch Times, (New York). 14 December 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. <http://www.theepochtimes.com/news/5-12-14/35788.html>.

¹⁰⁶³ Alessandro Vitelli, US resisting overtures on climate change talks: participants, Platts Commodity News, (Hong Kong), 7 December 2005.

Conference.¹⁰⁶⁴ “[Watson] objected to a formulation in the UN statement that suggested dialogue on climate change with no binding commitments which he said would be tantamount to opening fresh negotiations.”¹⁰⁶⁵ After intense discussions, revisions were made to the agreement and Watson returned to the Conference and later agreed to a document that commits to “a dialogue [on future emissions reductions], without prejudice to any future negotiations, commitments, process, framework or mandate” without a deadline for conclusion under the aegis of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.¹⁰⁶⁶

Analyst: Stephanie Law

9. European Union: +1

The European Union registered full interim compliance with its Gleneagles climate change commitments. Attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal, the 25 Member States of the EU negotiated as a bloc. Additionally, the UK G8 Presidency from July through December 2005 made climate change a priority during its mandate and the European Commission and European Parliament have, furthermore, acted in support of the Kyoto Protocol. Of some concern, however, is the extent to which these policies will be implemented in each of the EU’s Member States and whether they will contribute to a fulfilment of the EU15’s stated objective of an 8% reduction in GHGs by 2012 over 1990 levels.

The EU and its Member States all registered compliance with the part of the Gleneagles climate change commitment that mandated action on climate change at the United Nations Climate Change Conference. The EU negotiated as a bloc at the Conference and signed onto the same package of agreements as the other parties attending the COP11 and COP/MOP1 in Montreal.

In terms of support for the Kyoto Protocol and its goals, the UK EU Presidency expressed that “[c]limate change has been one of the main priority areas” in the post-Gleneagles period.¹⁰⁶⁷ The European Union’s energy commissioner Andris Piebalgs outlined on 8 December 2005 an EU action plan for the widespread use of biomass energy to reduce GHG emissions in the transportation, electricity production and heating and cooling sectors.¹⁰⁶⁸ It is anticipated that reforms to the EU Biofuels Directive will be completed in 2006 and that the potential CO₂ savings that could result would be approximately 209 million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent annually.¹⁰⁶⁹ The EU also agreed to a Partnership on Climate Change with the government of China on 5 September 2005 that would see EU expertise and Member States’ funding for projects in China to promote “development and demonstration of advanced, ‘zero emissions’ coal technology based on carbon dioxide capture and geological storage.”¹⁰⁷⁰

The European Council of Environment Ministers on 5 December 2005 endorsed plans to expand the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) to include emissions from international aviation.¹⁰⁷¹ This action is significant as that sector alone has contributed to 73% of the increase in EU

¹⁰⁶⁴ Adam, David, US isolated after climate talks walkout, Guardian Unlimited, (London), 10 December 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/climatechange/story/0,12374,1664259,00.html>.

¹⁰⁶⁵ Adam, David, US isolated after climate talks walkout, Guardian Unlimited, (London), 10 December 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/climatechange/story/0,12374,1664259,00.html>.

¹⁰⁶⁶ US poised for new climate talks, BBC News, (London), 9 December 2005. Date of Access: 7 January 2006. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4512696.stm>.

¹⁰⁶⁷ PM re-iterates climate change determination, 10 Downing Street, (London), 16 November 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. <http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page8532.asp>.

¹⁰⁶⁸ EU Launches Biomass Action Plan for Transport, Electricity, and Heating/Cooling Sectors, Green Car Congress, 8 December 2005. Date of Access: 15 Jan 2006. http://www.greencarcongress.com/2005/12/eu_launches_bio.html.

¹⁰⁶⁹ European Commission adopts action plan to increase use of biomass for energy and transport, Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership, (London), 8 December 2005. Date of Access: 6 January 2006. http://www.lowcvp.org.uk/newsandevents/news.cfm?news_id=327.

¹⁰⁷⁰ EU and China Partnership on Climate Change, European Commission, (Brussels), 2 September 2005. Date Accessed: 6 January 2006.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/298&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

¹⁰⁷¹ Press Release – 2697th Council Meeting, The European Council, (Brussels), 2 December 2005. Date Accessed: 16 January 2006. http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/87368.pdf.

emissions from 1997 to 2003.¹⁰⁷² The European Commission further announced on 21 December 2005 a directive to create a market to promote cleaner vehicles¹⁰⁷³, and proposed its Euro 5 standard for vehicular emissions, which would see cuts in nitrous oxide (a GHG) emissions by 20% and 25% for gasoline and diesel automobiles, respectively.¹⁰⁷⁴ Finally, the European Parliament on 17 November 2005 voted to accept a report that would allow it to present its proposal to fight climate change by “building on key Kyoto elements - binding greenhouse gas emission targets, a global cap-and-trade system, and flexible mechanisms ... [and] undertaking strong emissions reductions at home, starting with 20-30% domestic reductions by 2020”.¹⁰⁷⁵

Analyst: Afsheen Lalani

¹⁰⁷² EU Environment Ministers Endorse Emissions Trading for Aviation, Green Car Congress, 5 December 2005. Date of Access: 15 Jan 2006.

http://www.greencarcongress.com/2005/12/eu_environment_.html.

¹⁰⁷³ Directive on the promotion of clean road transport vehicles, European Commission, (Brussels), 21 December 2005. Date of Access: 6 January.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/495&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

¹⁰⁷⁴ Clean Cars: Commission proposes to reduce emissions, European Commission, (Brussels), 21 December 2005. Date of Access: 8 January 2006.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1660&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

¹⁰⁷⁵ Winning the battle against climate change, European Parliament, (Strasbourg), 17 November 2005. Date of Access: 15 January 2006. http://www.europarl.eu.int/news/expert/infopress_page/064-2439-320-11-46-911-20051117IPR02438-16-11-2005-2005--false/default_en.htm.