



for the people | for the planet | for the future

**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**

To: Rex Tillerson
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
ExxonMobil
Corporate Headquarters
5959 Las Colinas Boulevard
Irving, Texas 75039-2298
USA

Cc: ExxonMobil
Public Affairs
Hermeslaan 2
1831 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, July 10th 07

Dear Mr. Tillerson,

Please allow us to share with you a few concerns regarding what we perceive as an apparent discrepancy between ExxonMobil's public statements on climate change and the actually measurable efforts to reduce emissions which can be tracked in the 2006 Corporate Citizenship Report. Furthermore, we would like to put forward a few questions concerning ExxonMobil's funding policy towards European think tanks.

It is, we believe, indisputable that climate change is one of the biggest challenges the world is facing today. Judging from the message that ExxonMobil is trying to convey through its public relations efforts, including newspaper advertisement and interviews with influential media, you seem to agree on this. For example, the messages in a recent advertisement series in the European press (e.g. in the European Voice and the Financial Times) are clearly suggesting that ExxonMobil is reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. However, your 2006 Corporate Citizenship Report shows that the company's greenhouse gas emissions have been rising since 2003, reaching 145.5 million metric tons in 2006 – higher by 8.7 million metric tons compared with 2003. In addition, as the same report indicates, your company's Hydrocarbon flaring - a major component and contributor to greenhouse gas – has also been continually rising since 2003, reaching 891 million cubic feet per day of Hydrocarbons (an increase of flared gases by 279 million cubic feet per day as compared with 2005).

As indicated above, ExxonMobil's reported levels of greenhouse gas emissions and Hydrocarbon flaring in its Corporate Citizenship Report for 2006 show significant increase not decrease since 2003. Therefore we believe that in these advertisements you are misleading the public to believe that your company is taking actions to reduce "greenhouse gas emissions in effective and meaningful ways", while even your own company record shows increase of greenhouse gas emissions for the reporting period.

We therefore kindly ask you to immediately **stop making misleading claims in your public relation strategy and to publish corrections where your advertisements are misleading and incorrect.** Furthermore, we would be grateful if you could indicate **how you will in the future guarantee that your public relation efforts reflect the reality.**

It is also unclear to us how ExxonMobil's public relation efforts relate to the companies' funding policies. ExxonMobil is publishing advertisements highlighting efforts to combat climate change, while at the same time continuing to fund a number of think tanks who are widely known as climate "sceptics" or who in other ways campaign to prevent government action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In your corporate giving report for 2006, we found that ExxonMobil provided at least US\$2.1 million of funding to dozens of prominent U.S.-based organizations who are seeking to cast doubt on the scientific consensus on global warming, such as the American Enterprise Institute, the George C. Marshall Institute, the Heartland Institute and the Frontiers of Freedom Institute.

Research conducted by media and various non-governmental organizations also suggests that ExxonMobil has over the past years funded a number of European think tanks. Among them are several who are known in the climate debate for undermining support for legislation to curb emissions of greenhouse gases, such as the Centre for the New Europe, the International Policy Network and the European Enterprise Institute.

We are highly concerned about the fact that ExxonMobil's funding is contributing to obstruct political measures aimed at reducing CO2 emissions. We urge ExxonMobil to **stop funding think tanks both in the U.S. and in the EU that publicly deny climate change and who combat effective political measures against it.** Furthermore, we call on you to **review your funding policy, introducing sustainability criteria to make sure your future funding does not impede urgently needed measures against climate change.**

Beyond this, we are worried about the secrecy surrounding ExxonMobil's European funding. Your own corporate giving report only lists US-based organizations which you have funded in the previous year. By contrast, there is no overview of European beneficiaries – the cases where ExxonMobil funding is known or suspected have been individually researched. However, we believe that only openness and transparency on funding enables critical scrutiny in Europe. We therefore urge you to **provide us with a complete list of organizations in Europe which have received funding by ExxonMobil, including the amount of funding to each organization and the purpose for which that funding was provided.** Furthermore, we call on you to **publish each year, along with your US based corporate giving report, a European corporate giving report.**

We are looking forward to hear your reaction on our concerns and questions before August 3rd 2007.

Sincerely,

Christine Pohl
Friends of the Earth Europe