

Options to tackle climate change to be presented in Bangkok

Brussels, 27 April 2007 - The world's leading scientists and world governments are to meet in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 April, ahead of the publication on 4 May of the third part of a key United Nations report on climate change.

Experts are expected to say that massive investment in renewable energy technology and energy efficiency is needed to stop greenhouse gas emissions from rising with disastrous consequences.

This third volume of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report will focus on the scientific, technological, environmental, and economic aspects of mitigation of climate change.

Friends of the Earth Europe is warning that the urgency to act is greater than ever but that sustainable solutions are ready and waiting. Developed countries, responsible for a greater share of past and current emissions, have a moral obligation and economic capacity to act first and do most.

Friends of the Earth International's climate campaigner Catherine Pearce said:

"This report should push the EU and governments worldwide to take action, because it demonstrates that sustainable energy policies, measures and technologies are readily available. We have no time to lose, and no excuses for further inaction."

Friends of the Earth Europe's climate campaigner, Sonja Meister said:

"It is proven that renewable energy technologies reduce emissions and remove our dependency on fossil fuels. The EU recently pledged to promote their development, but now we need to see sound policies and the kind of investment which has previously been enjoyed by nuclear and fossil fuels. The EU must also massively increase its energy efficiency.

"At the key United Nations talks in Indonesia this December, the EU must show strong leadership and set an example by committing to reducing emissions by at least 30 percent by 2020 relative to 1990 levels. This is the minimum required from the EU to prevent catastrophic climate change and may coerce other industrialized countries into similar cuts."

NOTES TO EDITORS

This 2007 United Nations report, the IPCC's Fourth Assessment report, has taken six years to compile, draws on research by 2,500 scientists from over 130 countries and should shock the world into taking urgent action to reduce global emissions.

This section of the report - the third in a series - is based on new literature on the scientific, technological, environmental, economic aspects of mitigation of climate change.

The first part, which focused on science, was published on 2 February 2007 in Paris. The second part, published on 6 April in Brussels, focused on impacts and showed that the world's poorest people will be hit hardest by the effects of climate change.

For more information:

Catherine Pearce, Friends of the Earth International Climate campaigner will be in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 Apr – 4 May 2007.

To arrange an interview with Catherine Pearce, or for more information, please contact Kath Stipala, Media Officer, Friends of the Earth. Media line (24 hrs) London +44 20 7566 1649

On EU matters, please contact:

Sonja Meister, Climate Campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe: Tel: +32.2.5426100, Mobile: +32.484.975107, Email: sonja.meister@foeeurope.org

Rosemary Hall, Communications Officer at Friends of the Earth Europe: [Tel:+32.2.5426105](tel:+32.2.5426105), Mobile: +32.485.930515, Email: rosemary.hall@foeeurope.org