



## ISSUE 2493 - Wednesday 27 February 2008

### European states "must set annual carbon caps"

EU member states must take on annual whole-economy carbon caps and be prepared to pay fines if they do not meet them, campaign group Friends of the Earth said on Wednesday.

The EU should set an unconditional target to cut 30 per cent cut in emissions by 2020 from 1990 levels, and this should be translated into yearly reduction targets backed up by a compliance and penalty system, it said.

Fines could be administered by the European environment agency and recycled to countries that exceed targets, it suggested. The EU already has experience with direct penalty schemes in its common agricultural policy, it pointed out.

The EU's existing compliance mechanism to deal with infringements of green law takes too long to lead to fines, the group said. "Short term targets as opposed to long-term objectives will make today's politician's accountable," it argued.

The demands are made in a new high-profile Europe-wide public campaign fronted by Radiohead musician Thom Yorke.

Follow-up: See [press release](http://www.thebigask.eu/the-big-ask-launch/press-release) (<http://www.thebigask.eu/the-big-ask-launch/press-release>) and [campaign website](http://www.thebigask.eu/) (<http://www.thebigask.eu/>) .

Article Index: [Agriculture](#) · [Climate](#) · [Legal affairs](#)

© 1997-2008 Haymarket Business Media | [Terms & Conditions](#)