

# **EU-27 WATCH**



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# EU-27 Watch

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## On the project

Due to the new treaty provisions of the Lisbon Treaty and the economic crises the enlarged EU of 27 member states is on the search for a new *modus operandi* while also continuing membership talks with candidate countries. The EU-27 Watch project is mapping out discourses on these and more issues in European policies all over Europe. Research institutes from all 27 member states and the four candidate countries give overviews on the discourses in their respective countries.

The reports focus on a **reporting period from December 2009 until May 2010**. This survey was conducted on the basis of a questionnaire that has been elaborated in March and April 2010. Most of the 31 reports were delivered in May 2010. This issue and all previous issues are available on the EU-27 Watch website: [www.EU-27Watch.org](http://www.EU-27Watch.org).

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**Denmark****Satisfied with its performance as conference host****Katrine Prytz Larsen\***

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The Danish government was satisfied with its performance during the December 2009 Copenhagen conference; however, the negotiation strategy of the EU was conceived as somewhat imperfect. The Danish EU-Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard, pointed to the lack of leadership on the part of the EU as one of the main reasons for the failure in Copenhagen. She thus suggested that the EU would have had to step up offers to bring funds to developing countries at an earlier stage during the conference.<sup>1</sup>

On the part of the opposition, the Copenhagen conference was generally considered a failure since no binding agreement was reached. The People's Movement Against the EU said the EU treated the developing countries in an arrogant way during the negotiations.<sup>2</sup>

The Danish EU-Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard, and Member of European Parliament (MEP) Jens Rohde both argued in favour of raising the 20 percent reduction goal to 30 percent due to the potential economic effects it might entail.<sup>3</sup> The government generally supported the idea of the EU taking the global lead on climate change and there was a broad consensus on raising the reduction goal. Former commissioner and Director-General for Environment, Jørgen Henningsen, said that the EU's 20 percent reduction goal is too small to foster climate friendly technology advances.<sup>4</sup> Rina Ronja Kari, spokesperson for the People's Movement Against the EU, commented that Denmark's membership of the EU forced Denmark to work for an unambitious climate deal at the 2009 Copenhagen conference. While the EU will cut 20-30 percent, some experts have pushed for cuts of up to 40 percent.<sup>5</sup> Greenpeace voiced their regret that the EU did not decide on a 30 percent emissions reduction instead of 20 percent. Jan Søndergård of Greenpeace thus commented that the EU's 20 percent goal had already proven to be unsuccessful.<sup>6</sup>

*Europe's future potential*

On the more positive side, MEP Dan Jørgensen commented that there is still a chance for the EU to become a leading global power on climate change.<sup>7</sup> However, this would require a greater will on the part of the EU, more ambitious reduction goals and the ability to speak with one voice.<sup>8</sup> Both Commissioner Connie Hedegaard and ECON Pöyry's director, Jørgen Abildgaard, supported Jørgensen's argument and said that the EU must show itself as a motivating force on global climate change.<sup>9</sup> Mandag Morgen, a think tank, similarly commented that the EU could have great possibilities of setting the agenda on climate policy in the years to come.<sup>10</sup>

In general, the debate seldom concerned the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its role in negotiating a global climate change agreement. The general opinion was that Denmark, as a small country, needs to participate in international development cooperation both within the EU and the United Nations.<sup>11</sup> The Minister for Climate and Energy, Lykke Friis, thus stated that it was still the government's goal to work to reach a binding agreement within the organisation of the United Nations.<sup>12</sup>

*Financing mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries*

The government expressed satisfaction with Denmark's effort on development aid. MEP Dan Jørgensen commented that it is unrealistic to believe that Denmark's development aid in itself will cover the costs of climate change adaptation in developing countries. He called for more money as well as new market based initiatives, such as a quota trade charge used for investments in adaptation in developing countries.<sup>13</sup> It is a bad sign that the EU is going to reuse the development aid to fund climate change adaptation in developing countries.<sup>14</sup>

Uffe Torm of Danish Mission Council Development Department, an umbrella organisation for Danish churches, also pointed to the growing need for humanitarian aid as a consequence of climate change and the global food crisis. He therefore found it very positive that the development consequences of climate change were mentioned in the draft for a new Danish development policy. However, he

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\* Danish Institute for International Studies.

criticised the fact that the Danish government in spite of its previous promises had not approved any extra funding to cover the increased costs facing the developing countries.<sup>15</sup> Troels Dam Christensen, coordinator of the 92 Group, an umbrella NGO group, further commented that there is a strong presumption that the rich countries and Denmark are going to reuse the development aid to fund climate change adaptation in developing countries and that this was a very disappointing thing.<sup>16</sup> Greenpeace added that it was unclear whether the EU's climate aid for developing countries through 2012 would be financed by new EU funds or by the EU countries' development aid until now.<sup>17</sup> This statement was supported by the People's Movement Against the EU, who commented that the developed countries as a group should set aside a new sum of money for the sole purpose of helping the developing world adapt to climate change.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ZealandDenmark: Høring sluttede med klapsalver, 15 January 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Arbejderen: Efter Hopenhagen, 23 December 2009.

<sup>3</sup> LandbrugsAvisen: EU-Parlamentet vil have højere klimamål, 11 February 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Information: CO2-reduktion: EU's mål for klimaet er allerede klaret af krise og CO2-kreditter, 18 March 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Lolland-Falsters Folketidende: EU svigter ulandene, 22 December 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Arbejderen: EU undergraver FN, 30 March 2010.

<sup>7</sup> Frederiksborg Amts Avis: EU vil højne klimamål, 11 February 2010.

<sup>8</sup> Fyens Stifttidende: Den allersidste chance, 7 February 2010.

<sup>9</sup> Information: CO2-reduktion: EU's mål for klimaet er allerede klaret af krise og CO2-kreditter, 18 March 2010.

<sup>10</sup> Mandag Morgen: Europas klimachance, 19 February 2010; ZealandDenmark: Høring sluttede med klapsalver, 15 January 2010.

<sup>11</sup> Ulandsnyt: Klimakonferencen II, 23 January 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Information: Efterspil: Løkke afviser kritik af COP15-forløb, 27 January 2010.

<sup>13</sup> Politiken: Hvis klimamødet skal blive en succes..., 4 December 2009; Fyens Stifttidende: Den allersidste chance, 7 February 2010.

<sup>14</sup> Nordjyske Stiftstidende: Ulande snydes for et stort klimabeløb, 22 March 2010.

<sup>15</sup> Politiken: Fattigdom, frihed og forandring, 14 April 2010.

<sup>16</sup> Nordjyske Stiftstidende: Ulande snydes for et stort klimabeløb, 22 March 2010.

<sup>17</sup> Arbejderen: EU undergraver FN, 30 March 2010.

<sup>18</sup> Arbejderen: Efter Hopenhagen, 23 December 2009.

## Questionnaire for EU-27 Watch, No. 9

Reporting period December 2009 until May 2010 – Deadline for country reports 21 May

**All questions refer to the position/assessment of your country's government, opposition, political parties, civil society organisations, pressure groups, press/media, and public opinion. Please name sources wherever possible!**

### 1. Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty

On the 1 December 2009 the EU-reform ended with the entering into force of the Lisbon Treaty. However, the new treaty provisions still have to be implemented. Some procedures and conditions have to be determined. In other cases, procedures, power relations, and decision-making mechanisms will change due to the new provisions.

- How is the work of the new President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, assessed in your country? Which changes to the role of the rotating council presidency are expected?
- How is the work of the new High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, assessed in your country? Please take into particular consideration both her role within the European Commission and her relationship to the Council of the European Union.
- On 25 March 2010 a "Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service" was presented. How is this concept perceived in your country? Which alternatives are discussed?
- On 31 March 2010 the European Commission presented a proposal defining the rules and procedures for the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI). What are the expectations for the ECI in your country? What are the various positions concerning the rules and procedures?

### 2. Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy

The European Commission has given its opinion on Iceland's application for EU-membership and a decision from the Council is expected before the end of June. Croatia seems to have settled its border dispute with Slovenia. Against this background:

- Which countries does your country expect to become members of the European Union in the next enlargement round? What are the opinions in your country on the membership of these countries?
- How are the membership perspectives of those countries discussed, which are not expected to become a member in the next enlargement round?

The Eastern Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean were the last major projects dealing with the European neighbourhood:

- How are these projects assessed in your country?

### 3. European economic policy and the financial and economic crisis

The European Council agreed on 25/26 March on the key elements of the Europe 2020 strategy, the successor of the Lisbon strategy. While not being on the formal agenda the economic and financial situation in Greece was discussed. The European Council agreed on a finance package combining bilateral loans from the eurozone and financing through the International Monetary Fund.

- How is the finance package for Greece assessed in your country? Are there any opinions on the process, how the agreement on the package was reached?
- Which lessons should be drawn from the Greek case for a reform of the Stability and Growth Pact?
- How is the idea of "a strong coordination of economic policies in Europe" perceived in your country? What concepts of an European economic governance are discussed in your country and which role do they assign to the Euro group?
- How is the Europe 2020 strategy discussed in your country? What are the priorities for the Europe 2020 strategy from your country's perspective?

### 4. Climate and energy policy

The climate conference in Copenhagen took note of the Copenhagen Accord but did not reach a binding agreement. The next conference of the parties (COP 16 & CMP 6) will take place at the end of November 2010.

- How is the Copenhagen conference assessed in your country? Please take into consideration the negotiation strategy of European Union and the results of the conference.
- Does the European Union need to change its own energy and climate policy in order to give a new impulse to the international negotiations?
- Is a global agreement within the UNFCCC the best strategy to fight climate change? If not, which alternative strategy should the European Union follow?
- What is your country's position on financing mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries?

### 5. Current issues and discourses in your country

Which other topics and discourses are highly salient in your country but not covered by this questionnaire?