

# **EU-27 WATCH**



**No. 9**  
July 2010

ISSN 1610-6458

[www.EU-27Watch.org](http://www.EU-27Watch.org)

# 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).

The EU-27 Watch No. 9 receives significant funding from the **Otto Wolff-Foundation, Cologne**, in the framework of the *"Dialog Europa der Otto Wolff-Stiftung"*, and financial support from the **European Commission**. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

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**Luxembourg****More political courage deemed necessary**

Jean-Marie Majerus\*

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In general, the Luxembourgish population is very sensible concerning the climate change topic. Several environment protection associations, such as Mouvement écologique, Greenpeace Luxembourg, and other pro-ecology organisations, have united their efforts with 30 other NGOs, such as Caritas, Action-solidarité-Tiers-monde, among others, to act together against climate change<sup>1</sup> and create a Luxembourgish pro-climate lobby called "Votum Klima." Leaders of this pro-climate alliance talked to Prime Minister Juncker and the Ministers for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Wiseler and Schank. Votum Klima cannot accept the Copenhagen conference results.<sup>2</sup> The reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions plan endorsed by the EU and the USA is totally insufficient. Votum Klima criticised Juncker and the other European political leaders for their lack of perseverance and political courage. Prime Minister Juncker acknowledges the criticism by the environment lobby and declared that he would like the EU to stick to its original 30 percent CO<sub>2</sub> reduction goal. Nevertheless, he is well aware that this aim will be very difficult to reach, as a lot of partners only want to commit themselves if all the others do the same.

Green and ecological activists ask the government to make sure that the European Union is seen as a model and must not wait until other continents and economic powers follow up with their decisions on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. Business and industrialist federations agree that the EU and the national governments should act in climate change affairs but they nevertheless warn the Luxembourgish government in particular and the EU in general not to take unilateral measures which could harm the competitiveness of the national and European economy.<sup>3</sup>

Most mainstream political leaders publicly support a global agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the best strategy to fight climate change. The Green Party and other ecological activists would prefer an even tougher approach and denounce the agreement as being too soft or even meaningless to really prevent climate change.

Francis Massen, founder of a meteorological control centre in northern Luxembourg, favours an alternative strategy for the European Union. He believes that the agreement by the UNFCCC was based on horror scenarios promoted by certain scientific, political and environmentalist action groups, which have special interests in the implementation of this agreement. Francis Massen and his followers think that the real problem waiting to be solved concerns the differentiation of energy resources rather than the definition of a new climate change policy. Massen wants to promote an intelligent mix of all possible energy resources, including nuclear power.<sup>4</sup>

The Luxembourgish socialist Member of European Parliament Robert Goebbels gives succour to Massen and denounces "Climatism" as a new religion and a new kind of "green capitalism" based on a profitable CO<sub>2</sub> certificates' trade.<sup>5</sup>

Luxembourg can claim the honour to figure on the top of the list of countries which spend the most money on non-military cooperation and development projects per capita of their gross national income.<sup>6</sup>

The Luxembourg cooperation policy's paramount goal is the eradication of poverty through sustainable development. What are the effects of climate change on developing countries' populations? UN millennium objectives determine the strategy of the Luxembourg development policy. Luxembourg's cooperation objectives are therefore twofold: sustainable development and reduction of the impoverishment of biological biodiversity. Other aims are production of clean water, improving living conditions and so on.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Greenpeace-Luxembourg: Votum Klima Luxembourg, 2010, available at: <http://www.greenpeace.org/luxembourg/votumklima/> (last access 14 July 2010).

<sup>2</sup> Richard Graf: Hausaufgabenhilfe, Woxx, 29 January 2010.

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\* Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Européennes Robert Schuman.

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<sup>3</sup> Echo des entreprises: Coût et opportunités, 2/2010.

<sup>4</sup> Europa.forum.lu: Énergie – Environnement Le changement climatique, un problème réel ou hystérie des cercles scientifiques et politiques, available at: <http://www.europaforum.public.lu/fr/actualites/2008/09/debat-turmes-massen-oberweis/index.html> (last access: 19 July 2010); Albert Haas: Der erlogene Klima-Konsens, Tageblatt, 4 January 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Robert Goebbels: Zum Klimatismus, Tageblatt, 24 February 2010.

<sup>6</sup> Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): Les performances inégales de l'aide au développement pour 2010 suscitent des inquiétudes, 17 February 2010, available at:

[www.oecd.org/document/37/0,3343,fr\\_2649\\_34447\\_44620069\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37413,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/37/0,3343,fr_2649_34447_44620069_1_1_1_37413,00.html) (last access: 22 June 2010). Some countries will even go beyond this goal: Sweden has a ratio of net Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Gross National Income (GNI) 1.03 the highest in the world just before Luxembourg which has a ratio ODA/GNI of 1.00.

<sup>7</sup> Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, Direction de la coopération au développement: Environnement et changement climatique – stratégie et orientations 2009-2010.

## 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?