



KyotoPlus-Dinner

“Prospects for COP 11 and COP/MOP 1 in Montreal: The Canadian Perspective“

Minutes of the Dinner with Jean Boutet

26 October 2005

Canada will be the host and hold the “presidency” of COP 11 and COP/MOP 1 in December 2005 and thus hold the “presidency” of the conference. As such it will decisively shape the coming climate negotiations. In this context, the fifth “KyotoPlus-Dinner“, held on October 26, 2005 at the restaurant “Sarah Wieners Speisezimmer“ in the centre of Berlin, was titled “Prospects for COP 11 and COP/MOP 1 in Montreal: The Canadian Perspective “. The special guest of the evening was Jean Boutet, Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of the Minister of the Environment (Canada) and Special Advisor to Canada’s Ambassador on Climate Change. Since last May Jean Boutet has travelled about 25 countries on five continents worldwide in order to prepare the negotiations. In discussing with him, the dinner was a good opportunity for the participants to exchange expectations on COP 11 and COP/MOP 1 in Montreal. The attendees, 18 representatives from business, civil society, science and politics, discussed under the Chatham house rule that permits to quote everything that has been said, but without disclosing the speaker or his/her institution.

Jean Boutet opened the evening with a report of the voices he had gathered when travelling and an overview of Canada’s preparation process up to Montreal. Each and every country he had travelled, he emphasized, shared a sense of urgency as regards climate change and most countries felt attached to the Kyoto Protocol. But a concern of many countries, especially in the developing world, undoubtedly is to ensure development and economic growth, while establishing a climate friendly economy. As regards Canada’s preparation process, he said that Montreal just like Buenos Aires is meant to become a carbon neutral conference in the hope to set an example for the UN as a whole. With about 10.000 participants, Canada is expecting more attendees than even the Kyoto conference had seen and the largest intergovernmental conference Canada has ever hosted. It will also be the first climate conference in North America, and the first one in the Arctic, and Canada is expecting it to be a “landmark” climate change meeting. Boutet listed three interrelated outcomes (three “I’s”) that can, from the Canadian perspective, realistically be achieved in Montreal:

1. The successful *implementation* of the Kyoto Protocol (Implementation);
2. An *improvement* and strengthening of the Kyoto Protocol (Improvement); and
3. The launching of the process for an *innovative global approach* (Innovation).

Six themes should be included in such an innovative global approach: environmental effectiveness, broader participation, advancing development goals in a sustainable manner, building a strong market for greenhouse gases, realising the full potential of technology, and tackling the issue of adaptation. He finished his opening remarks with emphasizing once more that all countries have committed to act and all countries need to start to seriously reduce emissions now. “The only solution can and has to be a global coordinated multilevel response.”

The participants reacted very lively to Jean Boutet’s introductory statement. Many ideas crossed the table, and some of them were particularly addressed to Jean Boutet to take home to the Canadian government. The following issues were brought up and discussed in the group:

- The achievements of the Kyoto Protocol as a crucial first step;
- The Asian Pacific Partnership (AP6) and what it could mean for the climate regime;
- The challenge of improving the Kyoto Protocol without totally reopening the debate and undermining what has already been achieved with it (i.e. improving it more quantitatively than qualitatively);
- The persisting challenge of enforcing mandatory caps;
- The different views on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM);
- The need to broaden the agenda, for example towards adaptation;
- The potentials lying in technology and the possibilities of including it in the climate regime;
- The changing scene in the US and the need for the EU to therefore continue on its path;
- The problematic position of India and the contradictory signals from China;
- The need for all countries to join in and work as allies;
- The possibility of trade sanctions for countries who don’t join the Kyoto Protocol;
- NGOs and their prospective role in Montreal;
- Business and its prospective role in Montreal; and
- The Canadian tradition to move global issues forward (The Montreal Protocol, Landmines Treaty, International Criminal Court etc.).

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