



## From The Trade Unions at COP-12

### Meeting with the Government of 'Belgium'

From the Trade Unions at the UNFCCC COP12-MOP2  
6-17 November, 2006 - Kenya, Nairobi

The COP12 trade union delegation was coordinated by the new International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)<sup>1</sup>. We wish to thank you for agreeing to meet with us.

The purpose of our meeting is to make you aware the degree to which workers and trade union are involved in climate change issues and why it is important for their roles to be recognized and fostered within the scenario for change related to mitigation and adaptation. We would like to convey the following brief requests:

1. **Agree to an information exchange process** with trade unions about how the government might work with trade unions and to identify a government contact point for this purpose. The purpose for such a contact point would be to provide guidance as necessary to trade unions for providing input to COP13 and beyond and to the government itself in setting priorities on the following issues (see ANNEX 1 for further detail):

- Linkages to employment & sustainable development
- Worker participation in climate change decision-making
- Workplaces as a field of action for climate change.
- Technology options that strengthen social engagement.
- A long term equitable sharing of burden of reduction emissions

2. **Support the trade union request to the UNFCCC** (through the COP12 Chair) for trade unions to become a formal "constituency" of the COPs, along with Environmental Organisations (ENGO), Business Organisations (BINGO) and Research organizations (RINGO). A copy of our letter to the UNFCCC will be provided.

3. **Help promote the trade union issues (Annex 1 of this letter) at COP12** through Ministerial and other interventions in remaining COP12 sessions, with the COP12 Chair, in communications with UNFCCC Secretariat and through direct communications with SBI and SBSTA Chairs.

4. **Participate in our new programme of work between UNEP & trade unions on environment and sustainable development** (see details In Annex 2). A long term programme of work with the ILO, UNEP, & WHO has been approved by UNEP, including for climate change. The trade union work with UNEP and others is being coordinated by the Sustainlabour Foundation (brochure attached). We would propose to commence communication with you about this through your government contact point (see #1, above).

Please Contact Lucien Royer ICFTU/ TUAC : [royer@tuac.org](mailto:royer@tuac.org)

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<sup>1</sup> **The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)** consists of national centres of independent & democratic trade unions in 154 countries & territories with a total membership of 180 million working men & women: [internetpo@icftu.org](mailto:internetpo@icftu.org).

## Belgium TU remarks

First of all we wish to thank you for your supportiveness towards the Belgian Trade Union movement. As you know we almost represent over 30% of the Belgian population. In that perspective we are fully aware of our climate change responsibility both in representing our workers on work floor issues such as health & safety, energy efficiency investments and job security in a carbon constrained economy. As we are aware of the role Trade Unions need to play to sensitise our members as members of society making them fully aware of the climate issue and the initiatives they themselves can take. In that perspective we wish to thank you for the support given to our initiatives and suggestions. Specifically we are referring to the social criteria of the Federal CDM tendering, which is a model to many of us. Furthermore we thank you for your support in setting up the fund for the global reduction of the energy cost, as well as for the ETUC study on the employment implications of climate policy which will be published during the ETUC conference in February.

We would like to take this co-operation further in the future. For the near future we're specifically referring to the following:

1. We had a meeting with ministers and representatives from Spain, New Zealand, Japan, the UK, Finland, Nigeria and others. Most of them are **supporting the formal request to become a constituency within the UNFCCC framework**. We are hereby asking for yours, as well as your support through the participation in the new programme of work between UNEP & trade unions on environment and sustainable development.
2. Belgian Trade Unions want to stress the vast potential and multiple benefits of energy-efficiency.
  - We are asking you your **support and active involvement in the Round Table on energy efficiency in the housing sector** co-ordinated by the CCE/CRB.
  - We wish to bring you up to date with the **work done in the CCE/CRB on energy-efficiency in the transport sector and on transmodal transport**. This week we heard that the German government was able to stabilise its reductions in this sector through a multitude of measures. We do hope to closely work together in also achieving this goal in our country.
3. Belgian Unions ask you to **examine the legal possibilities** to formalise the workers representative **right to have access to information on investments in energy efficiency**. It may be helpful to you to know that employers and trade Unions recently achieved a consensus within the CCE/CRB advice on the greenbook Energy Efficiency on 'promoting full information exchange with workers in the energy sector and in sectors with high energy consumption on energy efficiency investments and energy saving in existing structures. Implicitly this also requires means to educate our affiliates in these companies on these issues.
4. Belgian Unions welcome the post 2012 scenario study done by the Federal Planning Bureau and are hopeful to see this process continually being updated. However we sceptical on the fact that only the marginal abatement costs were **considered** as a way to intra-European **burdensharing mechanism**. Notwithstanding that it is an necessary exercise, it is very likely that other mechanisms (tripartite) will be considered by the European Community and Commission. In order to be well prepared we feel that these need to be considered.
5. Finally we had a very warm reception from both the UK and Spanish delegation asking us if the Belgian government would **consider engaging in a meeting between these governments** helping us to validate our efforts **on** education, training and sensitising, within the **art. 6** framework.

Thank you again for hearing us:

Daniel Van Daele (Secr. Fed. FGTB), Jehan De Crop (CSS), Jean-Louis Canieau (FGTB), Fre Maes (ABVV)