



EU

Presidencia Española

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The Spanish EU presidency has set economic recovery and job creation as its main priorities. Its official programme ('*Innovando Europa*', Innovating Europe), highlights agreement on a new EU strategy for growth and employment ('*Europa 2020*') as a central objective for the six-month term as EU president. Spain also says it wants to make the EU a more powerful and responsible global player, and to strengthen civic participation in the Union.

Greenpeace agrees that the EU **needs a new economic strategy** and that it should urgently review its global positioning in order to become **a more influential and responsible international player**. Spain has several opportunities during its presidency to lead the EU towards achieving these ambitions in a way that would serve people and the planet.

However, Greenpeace notes with concern that the Spanish presidency programme is short of ideas on what Europe should do differently in the future to avoid a repetition of recent failures. In its economic strategy, the presidency programme largely reflects the stale ideas of the EU's failed '*Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs*'. Despite the disappointment of the Copenhagen conference on climate change in December last year, Spain also fails to present new ideas on how the EU could use its foreign and trade policies in order to fight the biggest threat to humanity – climate change. Instead, the presidency so far only refers to further trade liberalisation and the 'fight against terrorism'.

As it stands, the presidency programme mixes promising initiatives with failing policies that could waste of time and money. Without a clearer focus on the opportunities to innovate, prime minister José-Luís Zapatero could end up managing business as usual rather than leading Europe forward.

To ensure that the presidency's ambition to 'innovate Europe' becomes a reality, Greenpeace urges changes in the following policy fields:

- 1 Economic policy. A sustainable economy for people and the planet.
- 2 The EU as a global player. Lessons from Copenhagen.
- 3 Global solidarity. Common Fisheries Policy and adoption of legislation on timber.

1 1.Economic policy. A sustainable economy for people and the planet.

Under the leadership of the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Trio Presidency, the Council of the EU could take strategic decisions in the coming 18 months that would profoundly modernise the energy sector and become a cornerstone of the "EU 2020" strategy. The result would boost Europe's economy, create green jobs, and deliver solutions to climate change.

To maintain its current fuel-dependent energy supply, Europe spent as much as 350 billion euros on fuel imports in 2008 alone.¹ Energy resource prices are set to increase further. Under the leadership of the Spanish presidency, EU governments could redirect this expenditure towards investments into technological leadership and sustainable jobs, by putting the EU on track to exploit its energy-saving potentials and vast renewable energy resources.

At the same time, the development of an efficient and renewable energy-based economy is essential in the fight against climate change. Renewable energy sources, coupled with the smart use of energy, offer the secure, cost-effective and proven technology that can supply clean energy for Europe's economy in time to prevent the most dangerous levels of global warming. Having reached 26% of renewable electricity in 2009, Spain is recognised as one of the global leaders in renewable energy. As President of the EU it should promote an intelligent, interconnected and sustainable energy system for all of Europe.

¹ European Commission, Second Strategic Energy Review: An EU Energy Security and Solidarity Action Plan, COM(2008) 781 final

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The Spanish presidency correctly identifies the EU's Energy Action Plan for the years 2010-2014 as an opportunity to modernise Europe's energy supply. The March Summit 2010 should lead this process by giving Europe's energy policies **a strategic focus on renewable energy and strong energy efficiency**. Additionally, Spain should push the EU to develop a **2050 vision for a 100% renewable energy system**. This would prepare Europe's pathway towards an energy system that benefits the economy and people alike.

The following Spanish presidency initiatives are critical for the development of a sustainable economy:

- the removal of all subsidies for fossil and nuclear technologies;
- the development of a comprehensive smart grid initiative, including minimum standards for all new electricity grid developments and for appliances, such as electric cars;
- the focus on renewables and energy efficiency within initiatives on *Financing Low Carbon Technologies*;
- a cooperative process between governments to successfully implement the *renewable energy directive* and the 20% renewable energy target;
- the promotion of sustained renewable energy uptake for local and regional energy supplies in the Mediterranean region by encouraging long-

term and stable renewable energy support policies in countries participating in the *Mediterranean Solar Plan*;

- financial incentives and regulatory improvements for the development of offshore grid capacity to connect new renewable plants such as offshore wind in the North Sea and the Baltic or concentrated-solar power in Northern Africa.

2 The EU as a global player. Lessons from Copenhagen.

The failure of the Copenhagen conference brings the world closer to dramatic economic and social crises as a result of unchecked global warming. Spain must lead the Council to urgently review the EU's failed strategy and its lacklustre performance in recent international climate talks. EU trade and security policies should be adjusted to support the Union's ambition of keeping global warming well below the dangerous threshold of two degrees Celsius. The Council should also accelerate the Union's greenhouse gas reduction policies and increase the EU domestic emission reduction target to -30% by 2020 (-40% as part of a global agreement), well ahead of the November 2010 climate summit in Mexico. The current EU emission reduction target of -20% is so low that it would be difficult not to meet it. Sticking with -20% would also be inconsistent with the presidency's ambition of giving renewables a larger share in the EU energy mix and of improving energy efficiency.

3 Global solidarity. Common Fisheries Policy and adoption of legislation on timber

The Presidency will chair negotiations that will determine whether fish and fishing have a future. Most crucially, Spain, the EU's dominant fishing power, will lead the early stages of the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. This policy determines where and how EU fishing fleets operate, worldwide. The presidency will be responsible for finding

agreements between member states on a set of new principles and goals for fisheries conservation and management of the fishing fleets. In addition, Spain will conclude discussions on the protection of endangered bluefin tuna and seek agreement on a new legal framework for fishing operations in the North Sea and wider Atlantic.

Greenpeace has highlighted many failures of fisheries management in the EU, including illegal and destructive fishing by industrial fishing vessels. Owners of large fishing fleets increasingly seek access to fishing grounds in developing countries. As a result, the EU is contributing to overfishing worldwide. The destruction of the livelihoods of coastal communities in developing countries increases poverty and related migration. Spain now has the chance to show that it wishes to protect the sea and people in coastal areas who depend on it for their livelihoods. The Spanish government must lead the EU towards a restructured fishing fleet that favours environmentally and socially acceptable fishing practices. Large areas of the sea (40% worldwide) must be designated as Marine Reserves, and endangered species must be protected. In areas outside the reserves, access to fish must only be granted if operators can show that they fish sustainably and provide benefits to coastal communities.

The Presidency will also preside over the final stage of the adoption of new EU legislation that aims to exclude illegal wood from the EU market. In recent years, Greenpeace highlighted many cases of illegal timber trade and failures of forestry management, including cases involving Spanish companies.

Illegal and destructive logging contribute to deforestation and forest degradation (accounting for 20% of global CO2 emissions), destroy biodiversity, and exacerbate poverty in developing countries. Illegal logging is also a major economic concern because it undermines legitimate timber businesses.

Last year, under Swedish presidency, the Council ignored proposals by the European Parliament to improve legislation on this issue. A majority of

Member States voted against establishing a full chain of custody for timber products or explicitly prohibiting the sale of illegal wood on the EU market.

If Spain wants the EU to be taken seriously as a climate and biodiversity leader, it must improve the current draft legislation on timber and limit Europe's complicity in illegal logging and destruction of the world's forests.

GREENPEACE

Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organisation that acts to change attitudes and behaviour, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace.

Greenpeace is committed to stopping climate change.

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