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Your ref.:
Our ref.: PM/LL/A5/AFR/vf/pocl/013796/
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Phone: 02/213.09.35

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you for your letter about the commitments of Member States to refuse using CER issued from the destruction of HFC 23 or N₂O from Adipic acid.

As you mentioned, Belgium was already supportive of the decision adopted the 21st of January on the end of use of those credits in the EU ETS. And consequently we support the Danish proposition to reject these uses or our own commitments. This was stated clearly during the Environment Council of March 14th and is valid for the credits to be bought by the federal Government of Belgium. Our main motivations were:

- Firstly, this type of project disturbs the equilibrium of the carbon market as these projects outcompetes and hampers the development of more sustainable projects in areas such as energy efficiency and renewable energy, that truly contribute to the global effort. Furthermore these projects are almost exclusively concentrated in two countries (India and China), which hinders a balanced geographical distribution of CDM projects.

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- Secondly, these project types create perverse incentives that lead to maintaining or even encouraging the production of HCFC-22, which contradicts the agreed goal of controlling those HCFC as from 2013 and then reducing them, through the Montreal Protocol.
- Finally, we think it is necessary to be consistent in our policies. We need to be consistent with the recent EU regulation which prohibits the use of credits generated by these types of industrial projects under the EU ETS. We also need to be consistent with the position the EU defends in the international negotiations where we call for reforms of the CDM so as to improve its environmental integrity and the geographical balance of benefits related to the CDM.

We hope this provides you with useful answers to your questions. If you could have any further question, please contact my administration (FPS Health, Food Chain Security and Environment, Climate Change Section).

Yours sincerely,



Paul MAGNETTE