

Civil Society Workshop – The road to a low carbon economy: strengthening the connection between local, national and European climate policy

Madrid, April 5 & 6, 2017

Summary Report



On April 5 & 6, Carbon Market Watch together (CMW) with Transport & Environment (T&E) organized a workshop for Southern Europe non governmental organisations on “*The road to a low carbon economy: strengthening the connection between local, national and European climate policy*”. Other organisations contributing to organisation of the event included: Zero Waste Europe and SEO Birdlife.

The workshop was opened by Cristina Mestre, from T&E, and Pierre-Jean Brasier, from CMW, who detailed the goals of the event: to exchange on local realities, build capacity on specific EU policies, present key elements to achieve successful campaigns, identify key opportunities and brainstorm on interlinkages between local and European campaigns and on common future actions on the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR).

The workshop was divided into two sessions. The first day introduced the EU Emission Trading System (EU ETS) and focused on EU’s most important climate tool - the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR). The second day reflected on how to address industry lobbying at the EU and national levels and also to identify key elements for successful campaigning. Both sessions included a general introduction, presentations of national case studies, and participative moments to gather experience as well as proposals from the participants.

Key highlights of the event can be summarised as follows:

- The current targets in the ESR sectors, combined with the overgenerous flexibilities, are too weak to drive emission reductions in the sectors of transport, buildings, agriculture, energy, small industries (that are not in the ETS), waste, and industrial processes.
- Emission reductions in the ESR sector would generate significant co benefits for EU citizens wellbeing.
- The ESR is a key opportunity to reach to new stakeholders and to push for more progressive policies in the above mentioned sectors.



The workshop gathered a good number of participants representing organisations from Greece, Portugal, Cyprus, Spain, France and Italy. Also, the organisations varied in nature: from grassroots to political, from environmental law to biodiversity organisations. This permitted an “out-of-the-box” exchange of views and collective thinking.

Day 1, 5 April, 2017 - Introduction to the EU ETS and focus on Effort Sharing Regulation

Co-decision process: how does EU decision-making work (EP, Council) - Cristina Mestre, T&E

Cristina gave a brief introduction to the EU policy making. She presented specifically the functioning of the three main EU institutions, the European Commission, Parliament and Council, and ended by showing best avenues and proper timing to influence each institution.

General overview of the current reform process of the EU ETS - Femke de Jong, CMW

Femke described the functioning of the EU ETS, the world’s first carbon market. She stressed that that the current carbon price of less than €5 in is not high enough to incentivize investments in clean, low-carbon technologies and threatens Europe’s longer term climate objectives. Femke finished by

detailing the current reform, highlighting its lack of ambition.

Introduction to the Effort Sharing Regulation - Femke De Jong, CMW

Femke presented the ESR, currently under discussion at the EU level for the post 2020 period. The ESR covers non ETS sectors, namely transport, buildings, agriculture, energy, small industries and waste. Femke stressed that this reform, if designed correctly, will play a crucial role in the decarbonization of the EU economy. This would also bring important co benefits to EU citizens, in the form of cleaner air and water, better health, waste management and lower energy bills.

Femke then introduced the various flexibilities that can be used by Member States to meet their targets. They risk to significantly undermine the ESR ambition, which also makes them loopholes. Femke concluded by presenting NGO's recommendations to guarantee the ESR's ambition

National examples – presentation of the calculator & the country ranking - Carlos Calvo Ambel, T&E

Carlos presented two initiatives that were designed to bring more clarity on the debates around the ESR. The [effort sharing calculator](#) is a tool that allows in a user-friendly way to clearly see how the targets would be affected in member states by using the proposed flexibilities/loopholes. He then presented the [Climate Leader Board](#) which ranks the countries in function of their position on the ESR, focusing on Mediterranean countries.

Waste in Spain - Héctor de Prado, Friends of the Earth Spain

Hector focused on waste management in Spain, stressing that home composting should become a priority, given that its very low CO2 emissions. Domestic composting not only avoids landfill or incinerator emissions, but also avoids waste transportation, and fixes carbon to the soil with compost application. Hector indicated that it is the best way to move towards a low carbon economy.

Good practices in the transport sector at local level in Italy - Gabriele Nanni, Legambiente

Gabrielle started by listing the co benefits of more sustainable transport systems. He then presented good practices in various Italian cities, including Florence, Palermo or Pesaro. The presentation ended by highlighting the multiple cost and benefits that transports have on health.

Overview of national sectoral policies in Portugal - Francisco Ferreira, Zero

Francisco presented three good practices in the ESR covered sector in Portugal: buildings energy label, nationwide investment for charging stations for electric vehicles and the agriculture project "Terraprima", incentivizing farmers to implement carbon sequestration measures.

The battle of Article 10C - Nikos Mantzaris, WWF Greece

Nikos presented WWF's campaigns against subsidies for 2 lignite plants, run by national company PPC. He detailed key elements to succeed, including press work (gathering evidence on PPC), outreach to Members of the Parliament and social media actions. Nikos also stressed the importance to work in network both at the national and European level to exchange intelligence and adapt the advocacy strategy. He finally underlined the usefulness of having press article from abroad, to give the campaign an international dimension.

Portugal: Carbon Neutral 2050 - Francisco Ferreira, Zero

Francisco described how his organisation managed to convince Portugal to commit to become carbon neutral by 2050. Zero built momentum through a lot of press work. They then used this positive narrative to convince policymakers that this was a key opportunity for Portugal to be an international climate leader. Francisco ended his presentation by listing the potential risk that could undermine this target: competition of Spanish coal power plants with Portugal renewables, given that both countries share a common electricity market and the important Portuguese dependence to large hydros.

Environmental Justice: support for local communities - Marica Di Pierri, CDCA

Marica presented a tool designed to support local communities facing environmental conflicts - the [environmental justice atlas](#). She detailed its functioning and explained the various concepts that were used.

Presentation of EcoMobility educational project - Athanasia Batziou, Ecocity

Athanasia shared her organisation's successful experience in implementing the EcoMobility project. By basing the concept on an award winning principle and by collaborating with municipalities and schools, EcoCity managed to reach out to non activist. EcoMobility was also a mean to introduce more progressive policies locally. EcoCity is looking to expand this project beyond Greece and is looking for new partners.

Dieselgate - The EU vehicle testing reform - Carlos Calvo Ambel, T&E

Carlos explained T & E's campaign on the dieselgate. The subject made world news and T&E was very visible, since very few NGOs work on this subject. The challenge at first was to have enough capacity to answer all interview requests. The main objective was then to keep the subject alive, after the news passed. For this, T&E tried to reveal new data and make the news.

Key element of success also included the designing interactive infographics tailored to each Member State's situation. Despite all the press work, there was no big victory at the EU level (Council & EP) to date, because of the very effective industry lobbying.

Splitting industry - Femke de Jong, CMW

Femke came back in details to CMW's campaign on carbon leakage, within the context of the EU ETS reform. Various tactics were used to split the industry such as finding allies beyond NGOs, picking out one specific sector as a scapegoat or showing the industry overall profits.

Some elements were common to all presentations, which the group identified as important for a successful campaign. Some of these key elements are information sharing, keeping the momentum: creating stories rather than reacting to others' stories; build up relationships with different stakeholders and rapidness.

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