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Early Day Motion 325

to the UK House of Commons

“ . . . this House

1 Welcomes the Government’s commitment to resolve asymmetric conflicts such as global terrorism and climate change through the process of international coalition building;

2 Further welcomes the launch of the Energy Review and the Government’s commitment to respond to the 22nd Report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP), ‘Energy-the Changing Climate’;

3 Notes that terrorism is more likely to flourish in conditions of social injustice and environmental degradation;

4 Further notes the significant disparities in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions between developed and developing countries;

5 Further welcomes Recommendation 3 of the RCEP’s 22nd Report that ‘The Government should press for a further global climate agreement based on the Contraction and Convergence approach, combined with the international trading in emission permits;

6 Is seriously concerned at the vulnerability to terrorist attack of Britain’s nuclear power stations and facilities and the related transportation of radioactive materials;

7 Is encouraged by the rapid development of renewable energy technologies which offer the prospect of security and self sufficiency in energy supply to developed and developing countries;

8 And, therefore, calls on the Prime Minister to demonstrate further global leadership at next year’s World Conference on Sustainable Development by arguing the case for a policy of Contraction and Convergence of greenhouse gas emissions as the only realistic means of managing the transition from a carbon economy in a way that allows for equitable access to safe, renewable, low-intensity, self-sufficient and decentralised forms of energy supply.

Signatories to EDM 325 as at 10/05/2002

1. Mr David Chaytor
2. Ms Diane Abbott
3. John Austin
4. Norman Baker
5. Mr Harry Barnes
6. John Barrett
7. Mr A J Beith
8. Mr Harold Best
9. Tom Brake
10. Mr Colin Breed
11. Mrs Annette Brooke
12. Malcolm Bruce
13. Mr John Burnett
14. Mrs Patsy Calton
15. Menzies Campbell
16. Alistair Carmichael
17. Mr Martin Caton
18. Mr Michael Clapham
19. Mrs Helen Clark
20. Ann Clwyd
21. Harry Cohen
22. Mr Tony Colman
23. Frank Cook
24. Jeremy Corbyn
25. Brian Cotter
26. Mr Jim Cousins
27. Mrs Ann Cryer
28. Valerie Davey
29. Mr Ian Davidson
30. Mr Terry Davis
31. Mr Hilton Dawson
32. Mrs Janet Dean
33. Jim Dobbin
34. Sue Doughty
35. Mr David Drew
36. Julia Drown
37. Jeff Ennis
38. Mr Bill Etherington
39. Paul Flynn
40. Mr Don Foster
41. Andrew George
42. Mr Neil Gerrard
43. Dr Ian Gibson
44. Sandra Gidley
45. Matthew Green
46. Jane Griffiths
47. Mr Win Griffiths
48. Mr Mike Hancock
49. Dr Evan Harris
50. Nick Harvey
51. Paul Holmes
52. Mr Kelvin Hopkins
53. Simon Hughes
54. Lynne Jones
55. Mr Nigel Jones
56. Mr Piara S Khabra
57. Mr Archy Kirkwood
58. Norman Lamb
59. Mr Mark Lazarowicz
60. Mr David Lepper
61. Mr Elfyn Llwyd
62. Alice Mahon
63. Mr Paul Marsden
64. Chris McCafferty
65. Mr Kevin McNamara
66. Mr Tony McWalter
67. Mr Alan Meale
68. Laura Moffatt
69. Mr Michael Moore
70. Dr Doug Naysmith
71. Mr Mark Oaten
72. Lembit Opik
73. Dr Nick Palmer
74. Mr Gordon Prentice
75. Syd Rapson
76. Mr David Rendel
77. Joan Ruddock
78. Mr Adrian Sanders
79. Phil Sawford
80. Mr Alan Simpson
81. Mr Andrew Stunell
82. David Taylor
83. Matthew Taylor
84. Mr Simon Thomas
85. Mr Mark Todd
86. Dr Jenny Tonge
87. Jon Trickett
88. Mr Paul Truswell
89. Dr Desmond Turner
90. Mr Paul Tyler
91. Dr Rudi Vis
92. Mr Robert N Wareing
93. Brian White
94. Hywel Williams
95. Mr Roger Williams
96. Mr R Younger-Ross
97. Chris Mole

Introduction to C&C

The consequences of global climate change are ultimately incalculable. However, economic losses from natural disasters (80% weather related) are now growing at 12% a year. That is four times the rate of growth in the global economy. Assuming the growth rate of 3% in the global economy continues, these losses will exceed the total value of all human production within two generations on current trends. (chart page 8,9).

The research compiled by IPCC also indicates that the future risks are grave and will compound with the underlying trends in unsustainable development. That is why in 1999, the heads of the US National Ocean Atmosphere Administration and the UK Meteorological Office stated,

“We are in a critical situation and must act soon.”

In January 2000, 1,000 Corporate CEOs at the Davos World Economic Forum said: -

“Averting climate change is the greatest challenge facing the world, why has more not been done to avert its devastating trends?”

In March 2000, the UK Prime Minister said; -

“The process is accelerating. For some parts of the world, particularly the poorer parts, the effects will be catastrophic.”

To avert these devastating trends and bring the process of climate change under control as soon as possible, GCI proposes an international framework for controlling the greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions whilst positively stimulating the growth of renewable energy technologies and their international markets.

This framework is *“Contraction and Convergence”* (C&C) and is outlined on pages 8 and 9. C&C recognises that to avert these trends, climate-efficient commerce must be politically guided, rather than solely reliant on the market, if we are to achieve the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and thus enable future economic and social development to be sustainable. Establishing the C&C framework is at the political and constitutional heart of the UNFCCC process so as to progress: -

- Choice and opportunity
- The reduction of regional inequity across the world
- An orderly transition from carbon to renewable energy technologies
- The reversal of the exponential rise in catastrophic losses

All these are fundamental to long-term prosperity and security.

By globally integrating precaution, equity and efficiency, C&C coordinates control to reduce risk exposure at source. It thus defines the political commitment necessary to avoiding dangerous climate change while promoting prosperity by other non-carbon energy based means. The case for C&C is compelling and as governments, industry and civil society conjoin global in its enabling simplicity, C&C will become the standard by which progress at the UNFCCC is measured. As Appendices One and Two of this document suggest, C&C has wider international support than any other global proposal. Also in the context of creating global emissions permits as tradable property rights, C&C is described in the Policy Section - Working Group Three - of the IPCC Third Assessment Report as,

(C&C)“taking the rights-based approach to its logical conclusion.”

Essential Proposition of C&C

Countries agree a reviewable global greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions 'contraction budget' targeted at a precautionary, stable value for atmospheric ghg concentrations. The internationally tradable shares in this budget are then agreed on the basis of 'convergence' from now, where shares are broadly proportional to income, to a target date in the budget timeline after which they remain proportional to an agreed base year of global population. Revenue from this trade can be directed to the deployment of zero emissions technology.

Contraction

On the basis of precaution, all governments collectively agree to be bound by such an atmospheric target. This makes it possible to calculate the diminishing amount of greenhouse gases that the world can release for each year in the coming century. Subject to annual review, this 'event' is the contraction part of the process. ⁴

Convergence

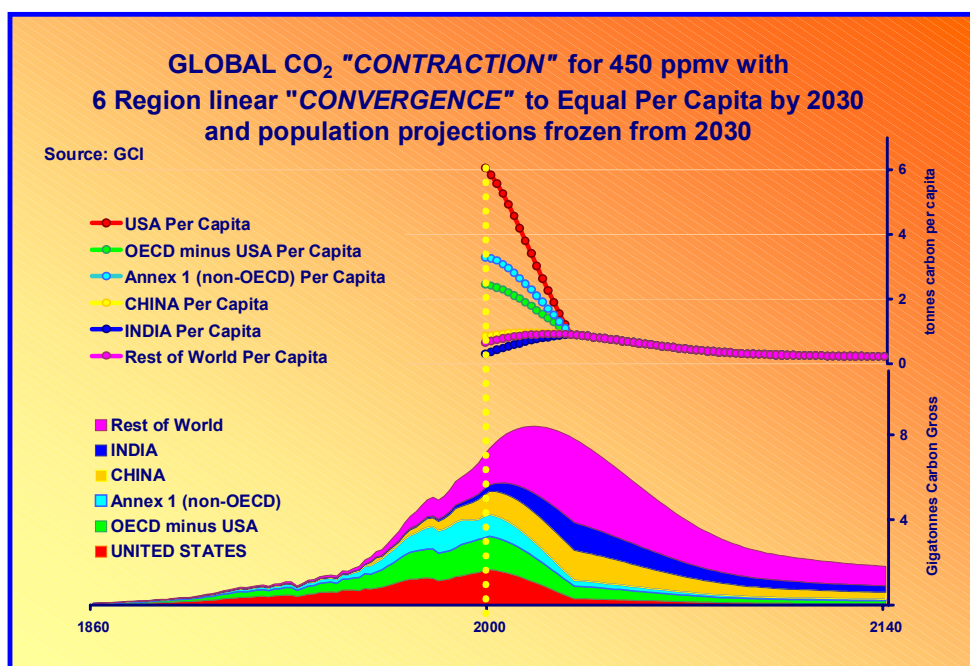
On the basis of equity, convergence means that each year's ration of this global emissions budget is shared out so that every country progressively converges on the same allocation per inhabitant by an agreed date, for example by 2030. It recognises the need for access rights to the 'global commons' of the atmosphere with the fundamental principle of globally equal rights per capita, to be achieved by smooth transition. ⁵

Emissions Permit Trading

Countries unable to manage within their shares would, subject to agreed rules, be able to buy the unused parts of the allocations of other countries. Sales of unused allocations would give less developed countries the income to fund development in zero-emission ways. Industries in developed countries would benefit from the export markets this restructuring would create.

Sustainable Growth

C&C does not place a straightjacket on growth per se by its limitation on fossil fuels. Instead, it averts catastrophic losses by promoting the development and growth of zero carbon energy technologies necessary for prosperity and sustainable development.



Overview of trends with and without C&C

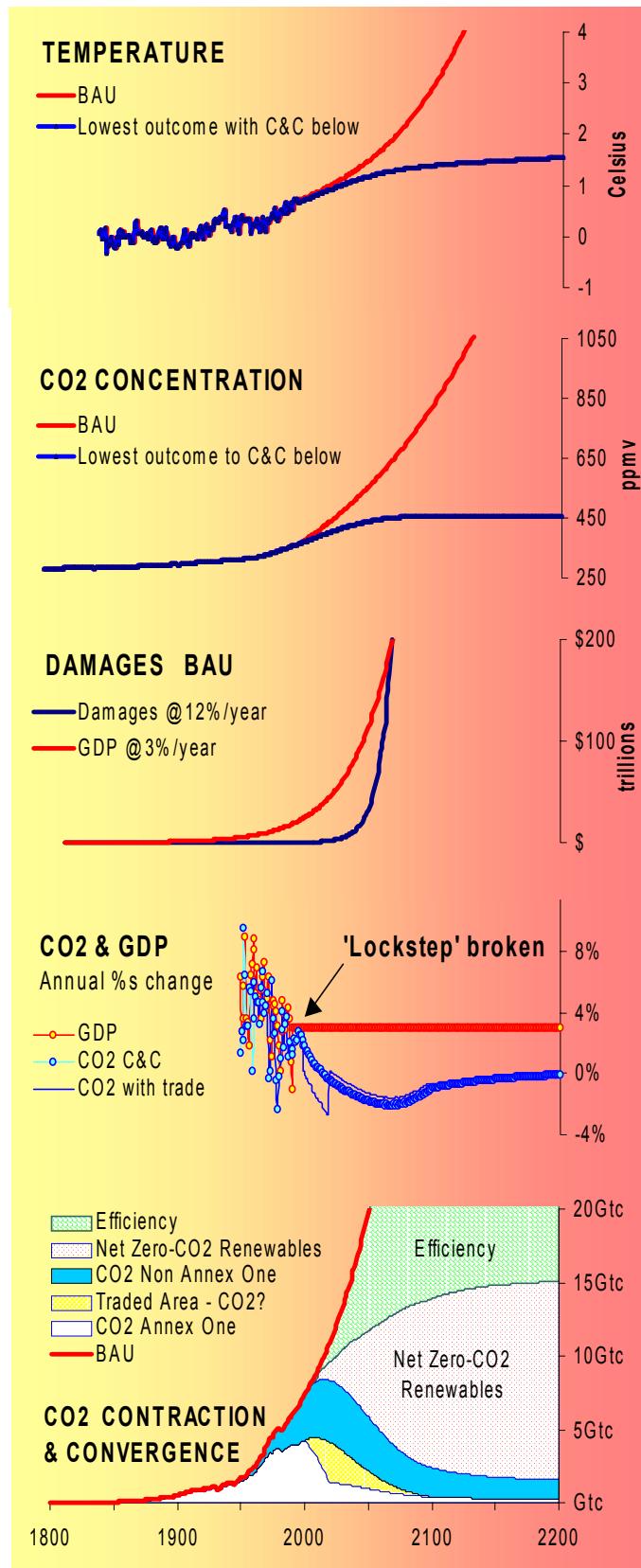
Surface **temperature** from 1860 until 2000 shows an overall rise of 0.9°C. The future projections are following CO₂ emissions and atmospheric ghg concentrations (in ppmv - parts per million by volume). The red line shows Business-as-Usual (BAU) where the underlying emissions grow at 2%/yr. The blue line shows the lowest possible climate sensitivity - a rise of 1.5°C - assuming a contraction by 2100 of 60% in annual emissions.

Recorded atmospheric **CO₂ concentration** from 1860 until 2000 shows an increase of 34% over pre-industrial levels. This is a rise both higher and a faster than anywhere in the ice-core sampling back 440,000 years before now. Concentrations are rising as the result of accumulating emissions. In future, the worst case is the red line as BAU. The best case sees this concentration stabilised at 70% above pre-industrial levels due to a 60% contraction in the underlying emissions by 2100.

Damages here are the global economic losses (Munich Re) for the four decades past for all natural disasters projected at the observed rate of increase of 1.2% a year in comparison to global \$GDP at 3%. If the global trends continue BAU, damages will exceed GDP by 2065! The risks will soon rise beyond the capacity of the insurance industry and even governments to absorb. Damages will rise for the century ahead even with emissions contraction, but the rate can be reduced with Contraction, Convergence, Allocation and Trading (C-CAT).

For the past four decades, the output of **CO₂ and GDP from global industry have been correlated nearly 100%** (known as 'lockstep'). Breaking the lockstep is essential. Future GDP is projected here at 3% a year. Future CO₂ goes to -2% with the retreat from fossil fuel dependency shown below, that limits CO₂ concentrations to 70% above pre-industrial levels, shown above. If the traded area is also converted to zero-emissions supply (below), the carbon retreat might achieve up to -4% a year.

The red line shows BAU CO₂ emissions. The solid segments show "**Contraction, Convergence, Allocation and Trade**" [C-CAT] to manage emissions down by at least 60% within a given time frame (2100 here) with an agreed 'contraction budget' (here 680 billion tonnes of carbon). The internationally tradable shares of this budget (here, 100 billion tonnes) result from convergence to equal per capital emissions by an agreed date and population base year (here 2020). If this is invested in zero-emissions technologies, risk and damages are lowered further as the budget is then net of these emissions as well. The renewables opportunity is the difference between C-CAT and BAU. It is worth trillions of dollars per annum - the biggest market in history.



UNFCCC, C&C and the Kyoto Protocol

UNFCCC states,

“ . . . must achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system ⁶ . . . should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity ⁷ . . . developed country Parties must take the lead in combating climate change ⁸ . . . (while) the share of global emissions originating in developing countries will grow to meet their social and development needs.” ⁹

The Kyoto Protocol is an incomplete response to the UNFCCC because Developing Countries are excluded from emissions control. Nor will its targets meaningfully begin to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. A global C&C framework is the logical and probably the only way to secure global participation in the process that does achieve this. As the UNEP CEO Topfer recognised in June 97, C&C the logical extension of the Protocol: -

“The review system of Kyoto mechanisms can ensure equity. Currently CO2 emissions rights are allocated according to existing emissions patterns with a specified reduction percentage for various countries within a certain period of five years (2008-2012). The redistribution through the Kyoto Protocol could be continued until emissions rights are uniformly distributed on a per capita basis. This will be a critical element to ensure the poor also get rights to utilise the world’s environment, or in this limited case, the assimilative capacity of the atmosphere, a global commons resource.”

UNFCCC, C&C and Byrd Hagel Resolution

In July 1997 US Senators Byrd and Hagel tabled a resolution about the US involvement with the Kyoto Protocol. It rehearsed all their objections to what they felt was the ‘flawed’ character of the Berlin Mandate and the impending Kyoto Protocol.

“Now, therefore, be it resolved that: - The US should not be a signatory to any protocol to, or other agreement regarding, the UNFCCC of 1992, at negotiations in Kyoto in December 1997, or thereafter, which would mandate new commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the Annex I Parties, unless the protocol or other agreement also mandates new specific scheduled commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Developing Country Parties within the same compliance period.”

The crucial detail here is that two defining distinctions are maintained between: - Annex One Parties (Developed Country Parties) and Developing Country Parties and ‘limit’ ghg emissions and ‘reduce’ ghg emissions. Limitation means controlled positive growth of emissions and reductions means controlled negative growth. Putting these concepts together in the same compliance period, translates into a formal process of “*Contraction and Convergence*”. Annex One Parties will reduce (or contract) their ghg emissions while the Developing Country Parties will limit their ghg emissions and thus converge with Annex One Country Parties. This will not emerge by accident but by design and consent. “*Contraction and Convergence*” provides the logical modus operandi for the resolution.