

Integrating Environment, Development and Conflict Prevention – European and National Approaches and Challenges

Session III; Dr. Elina Bardram, Outline for Input III *WG A II Climate change, energy and security*, for Berlin European Conference 29-30/03/07

Brief overview of the EU's Climate change and Energy Policy and its relevance in context

The Spring European Council sent a strong signal on the crucial link between energy policy and climate policy and on the European leadership. Climate change policies help reduce our energy dependency and make economies more resilient against future energy crisis.

The security dimension

The **security threats** related to climate change and scarce energy resources are both societal and political and the impacts are at their most severe when these problems coincide with the pressures of population growth and poverty.

There is no mono-causal link between climate change and conflicts. Responses are diverse and are difficult to predict; the full impact takes **time** to materialize, and the link between climate change, energy and conflicts often goes unnoticed. It is also clear that reactions mirror the affected country's profile.

EU should play its part in these efforts to tackle challenge at global level. This is above all a moral and political imperative, but it also makes economic sense. It is a lot more cost effective to channel conflict into dialogue and constructive action than to deal with the consequences once it has degenerated into violent confrontation.

The adverse effects of climate change, the consequent threats to humanity as a whole, as well as the increasing competition for scarce energy resources **will further accentuate the international tensions we spend our time trying to resolve.** More than 1.5 billion people in the world have no access to energy. These are the same people that are most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, such as changing patterns of rainfall, increased likelihood of draughts, disruptions in food production and diminishing access to freshwater supplies. Accordingly we need to promote these intertwined agendas simultaneously as an integral part of our external action.

Engaging partners

- Europe needs to significantly step up its efforts to convince its partners around the globe of the benefits of broad based engagement.
- To optimise our impact we shall need to focus on key players in the relevant international negotiations; to differentiate between different groups of target countries; and to tailor our dialogue and co-operation (ENV, DEV, RTD, ENTR, TREN) according to their specific circumstances. To facilitate the process, we need to examine the potential of the full range of policy tools available in relation to third countries or regions at EU level.