

PRESS RELEASE

Questions about Kyoto

As the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP10) gets underway in Buenos Aires in the coming week, a [report](#) questions the scientific and economic rationale behind the Kyoto Treaty and government measures aimed at regulating climate change (<http://www.institutmolinari.org/pubs/note200412.pdf>).

“Global Warming: the cost of mitigation” by Carlo Stagnaro, is published today by the Institute economique Molinari and is available in English and French.

Carlo Stagnaro the report's author says:

“Does it make sense to pursue *any* policy to address climate change? Is the Kyoto Protocol a cost-effective way to do it? The answer, in both cases, is *no* : European climate policies rely on uncertain science, bad economics, and a biased political approach.”

On the issue of the scientific basis for international and government, Mr Stagnaro points out the complexity of establishing a link between gas emissions and climate change:

“For example, ozone shields the Earth (thus making it cooler) in the stratosphere, while in the troposphere ozone works the other way around. Water vapour is a greenhouse gas, but when its concentrations exceed a threshold level, clouds are formed, and they act as a mirror pointed upwards, reflecting solar radiation.”

On the failure of the Kyoto Treaty to meet its objectives Mr Stagnaro also says:

“The Kyoto Protocol is not enough to stave off climate change. If we want to act seriously against allegedly man-made global warming, Kyoto is only a first step towards a crackdown that would be much more severe, and involve every country in the world.”

“A super-Kyoto regime implies at least two consequences of great importance, none of which has been highlighted by interest groups in Europe.

“First, the use of energy for food production, refrigeration, transportation, heating, manufacturing and air conditioning would be greatly curtailed. Affordable, reliable energy has enabled human beings to live longer, healthier, happier lives. People, especially Europeans, would be forced to greatly curb or give up its use of energy, leading to a drastic reduction in quality of life.

“Second, a “Super-Kyoto” would entail a global enforcement mechanism, through central planning by global agencies such as the United Nations, a prospect viewed with suspicion by many people. Poor countries would likely see this as a kind of “ecological imperialism” against their desire to obtain a better quality of life through economic growth, which relies on more intensive energy use.”

Launching the report, IEM president Dr Cécile Philippe said:

“It is vital that decisions are taken on the basis of scientific fact and an understanding of their economic costs, because they will affect the prosperity

and welfare of billions of people.”

Notes for editors:

Recent articles by Carlo Stagnaro on the Kyoto Treaty and COP10 can be accessed via the following links:

http://www.cneenvironment.org/blog_archive/archive_2004_stagnaro.htm#1130

http://www.cneenvironment.org/blog_archive/archive_2004_stagnaro.htm#1123

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