



**The Lisbon Council  
The 2009 Eco-Innovation Summit  
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**Message by Yvo de Boer,  
Executive Secretary United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

The international community has committed to sealing a comprehensive, fair and effective international climate change deal in Copenhagen in December. Copenhagen needs to provide a definitive response to the greatest challenge ever to face humanity. And it is clear what needs to happen at the end of the year for Copenhagen to be termed a success.

World leaders meeting in New York in September made a clarion call for a climate change deal to be clinched this year that ensures:

- 1) Enhanced action to assist the most vulnerable and the poorest to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- 2) Ambitious emission reduction targets for industrialised countries,
- 3) Nationally-appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries with the necessary financial and technological support.
- 4) Significantly scaled-up financial and technological resources
- 5) An equitable governance structure to manage the funds.

Whilst a will has emerged to build the architecture of an agreement with which climate action could be rapidly implemented, two key sticking points remain unresolved: clarity on industrialised country targets and finance to enable further developing country action to mitigate and to adapt.

**You as European eco-innovators can play a significant role in helping the world to shift towards a low-carbon society.** Climate change clearly is an investment challenge.

It is not enough for emissions within Europe and the other developed regions of the world to fall in line with what science indicates is necessary, if the world is to stay below a two degree Celsius temperature rise. It is essential that developing countries are assisted in reducing their emissions. And it is essential that European governments very soon provide clarity on what start-up finance will be needed for developing countries to act swiftly.

There is no doubt that significant profits can be made by investing in clean technologies. The boom in energy efficiency and renewables has been compared to the internet boom at the end of the last century. But the dimension of the deals that can be made and the size of the carbon market will depend to a large degree on what is agreed at Copenhagen.

A delay in action would lead to lock-in effects, with the wrong investments being made in old and polluting technologies. The International Energy Agency recently calculated that every year of delay would cost the global economy 500 billion dollars.

The business community must now indicate to governments what clarity it requires in order to plan its future investments. Future generations will remember Copenhagen for what it needs to be: a turning point away from catastrophic climate change and towards a low-carbon society.

Thank you.

Yvo de Boer  
Executive Secretary  
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