

# Inconvenient Truths About Europe's Climate Policy

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW LIBERAL APPROACHES

BY **HOLGER KRAHMER** MEP

CO-AUTHORS **BARONESS EMMA NICHOLSON, DR BENNY PEISER AND DR ARMAN NYILAS**



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Holger Kraemer has been a member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament since 2004.

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## Why the EU Should Re-Consider its Unilateral Climate Policy

THE EU NEEDS A FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF ITS **FAILED CLIMATE POLICY** **PAGE 11**

BY **BARONESS EMMA NICHOLSON**

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## Copenhagen and Cancun

DEAD END OF **EUROPE'S UNILATERAL CLIMATE POLICY**

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BY **DR BENNY PEISER**

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Dr Benny Peiser is the director of the Global Warming Policy Foundation and the editor of the climate policy network CCNet.

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## Science

LOOKING FOR TRUTH, **SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS**

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BY **DR ARMAN NYILAS**

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Dr Arman Nyilas is a metallurgist and a researcher in the development of force and displacement sensors in Cryogenic Engineering.

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# Some Inconvenient Truths About Climate Policy

SUGGESTIONS FOR **NEW LIBERAL APPROACHES**

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BY **HOLGER KRAHMER MEP**



Hardly have policy discussions been so heavily influenced in recent years than by contentious debates about how to deal with climate change. A rational and balanced debate has been almost impossible. Dogmas have been crafted and doomsday fears stoked. Doubt and critical arguments about the strength and reliability of scientific evidence presented by the IPCC have been stigmatised in an unprecedented way. As a result, the proportionality of many policy decisions on climate change has not been sufficiently assessed and discussed.

## High Cost of Avoiding CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

The economic costs are anything but a trifle: according to estimates by the Institut der Deutschen Wirtschaft, a three-person household in Germany spent more than 5,000 euro for energy (gas, diesel, gasoline, electricity) in 2008. In 1998, it was only 3,000 euro. Of course this increase cannot be attributed exclusively to climate policies. However, the economic burden of climate policies (environmental taxes, emissions certificates, etc) for the three-person household amounted to almost 700 euro, while they were almost non-existent ten years ago.

In Germany, a whole industry has been created with thousands of jobs thanks to generous subsidies for renewable energies. This industry only has a future, however, if the government-guaranteed feed-in tariffs and green taxes continue to flow, which are indispensable for making it competitive with conventional energy production in the first place. It is important to remember that we are wasting money if we support even more inefficient alternative technologies too heavily.

This creates also a social imbalance. Only citizens who can afford to put costly solar panels on the roofs of their houses benefit from these subsidies. However, the subsequent increases in electricity prices have to be paid by all citizens. It costs a German taxpayer about 600 euro a year to avoid one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> by using solar power. According to estimates by the Rhine-Westphalian Institute for Economic Research (RWI), as a result German taxpayers will have to pay an additional 63 billion euro by 2020 if these policies remain unchanged. Nevertheless, despite these massive subsidies, they will generate less than one percent of Germany's electricity in 2020.

The IPCC has apparently done everything it can to twist the costs of climate policy. Six studies cited in part three of the 2007 IPCC report claim that climate policy can generate an economic boom and new jobs. The Dutch economist Professor Richard Tol attacked this section sharply: "They all are too optimistic and miscalculate how expensive the climate policy of the future will be."

Five of the six studies were included in the IPCC report without any scientific evaluation. However, the one study which was published just in time for the release of the IPCC report

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comes to a remarkable result conclusion: The labour market will expand by a maximum of 0.64 percent – a calculation that included a deviation of 1.33 percent, which actually does not permit any meaningful statement one way or the other. Tol's conclusion: "The study is a bad foundation for decisions on environmental policy."

### **Emissions Trading Scheme: A Free Market Policy?**

Emissions trading is the EU's flag ship instrument of climate policy. Even liberals hailed it as a 'market instrument' in recent years. But what are our experiences in Europe with emission trading? The hoped-for steering effect through price signals for industries and power generators, which have been required to buy certificates, have largely failed to appear. Much money has been redistributed but CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions have been negligible. In an editorial, The Wall Street Journal called it the "biggest economic redistribution program since the implementation of the income tax." The EU Commission estimates the overall cost of the European emissions trading scheme between 60 to 80 billion euro per year.

Emissions trading is not a free market instrument. It only looks like one. Supply and demand are created artificially. The market is never fair because the rule making that regulates the trade is skewed by different interests. Under the current EU Emissions Trading Directive, Polish coal-fired power plants do not have to buy certificates – but German energy producers have to acquire 100 percent of the required certificates. Both sets of power plant operators, however, compete for the same customers. Here emissions trading has created a competitive imbalance. The auctioning of certificates to industrial sectors is exposed to the same – arbitrary – game of interests.

The experiences at the international level are sobering, too. Major emitting countries have rejected emissions trading schemes. Recently, Australia also got cold feet. In the United States, cap and trade has been debated for years – without success. Even here, in the country which invented emissions trading, reservations about the efficiency of this policy are growing ever louder. India and China, the countries with the largest growth in emissions, can hardly be encouraged by Europe's experience. Even the WWF questions the efficiency of emissions trading and calls for CO<sub>2</sub> emission limits for industrial plants – but not as a substitute, but as an additional tool.

It would appear that the inclusion of the aviation industry in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme from 2012 is settled. Non-EU states, however, were not even consulted. It was hoped that the necessity of tackling climate change was recognised elsewhere and that the European project would be universally adopted.

The reality, however, looks quite different: In December 2009, American Airlines have started a law suit in English courts against their forced inclusion in the EU emissions trading scheme. And Russia categorically refuses to buy CO<sub>2</sub> certificates on the EU's carbon market for flights which fly up to 80 percent over Russian territory.

These experiences are certainly poor conditions for emissions trading at the global level. It is therefore time to raise the question just how realistic a global CO<sub>2</sub> trading market is. It is also time for a liberal conclusion: We should be sceptical of markets set up and controlled by politicians!

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## Copenhagen as a Turning Point in the World Climate Policy

After the failure of the climate summit in Copenhagen, Europe's political elites reacted defiantly instead of analysing the reasons for its failure objectively. But Copenhagen has altered the geopolitical balance: Europe needs to recognise the dramatic loss of its political and economic weight. Economic and political power is shifting towards Asia. The EU was not even asked to sit at the negotiating table when the United States, China and India negotiated a minimal compromise. It is no longer possible to claim that Europe has a pioneering role in international climate policy making. The rest of the world is not interested in following Europe's regulatory policies. The conflicting interests between developed and emerging nations, an obstacle that was foreseen for a long time, are insurmountable. The categorical rejection of legally binding emission reduction targets by developing nations is definitive because the poorer countries cannot afford to hamper economic growth and development. Foremost, it is essential for them to continue to utilise relatively cheap fossil fuels.

Brussels and other European capitals have difficulties accepting this reality. Instead, new hopes for an agreement at future climate summits are fuelled again. Yet in face of the harsh reality, the chances of an international agreement that includes legally binding emission targets are de facto zero. The last thing Europe now needs is a blind strategy of 'Staying the course' or, worse still, a unilateral tightening of emission targets. After all, the huge costs of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction policies already pose a serious risk for the competitiveness of European economies.

In many ways, Copenhagen marked the complete failure of European climate policies. What we need is a face-saving exit strategy that no longer relies on an unrealistic process of achieving a universal climate change agreement but instead seeks bilateral agreements with agreeable countries such as South America or the United States. Whether such agreements will prove to be effective without the inclusion of China and India remains doubtful for the time being. A climate treaty with Bolivia, on the other hand, as demanded by the political left these days, would simply be ridiculous and an admission of European insignificance.

For this assessment I recommend the analysis by Dr Benny Peiser, to whom I am grateful that he has agreed to the publication of his article in this brochure.

## Scientific Questions Should no Longer be Ignored

As the period of extreme climate hysteria is beginning to wane, it is time to bring in critics of dogmatic climate policies to the table of the debate, not least because more and more citizens are sceptical of the habitual doomsday scares. And rightly so: the supposed scientific consensus on climate change has been crumbling. In reality it looks increasingly like a cartel of politicized scientists who, for many years, succeeded in controlling the way the media presented their views. Recently, more and more cases of data manipulation and conflicts of interest by leading protagonists of the IPCC have come to light.

These scandals have caused a crisis of credibility among the IPCC and its scientists. It would appear that politically motivated exaggeration rather than the query of open questions and scientific scrutiny is a feature of the IPCC process. This raises the question whether the UN's climate panel can be reformed or whether it is damaged beyond repair. What is obvious, however, is just how little we really know about the highly complex system of our climate.

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Dr Wolfgang Gerhardt, the former chairman of Germany's Liberal Party (FDP), has put it this way: "The majority of climate scientists believes in CO<sub>2</sub>-induced climate change and advocate swift political action to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. There is also a minority, however, who questions this assumption and who do not regard conventional climate policy as realistic. A few days ago Carl Christian von Weizsäcker argued that, in view of significant uncertainties about the effects of human activities on climatic effects, we should expect a continuous revision of prevailing views. Therefore, today's predominant view should not presume that its policy recommendations are somehow guaranteed for future generations as if it were a sustainable dogma. Science and politics, objectivity and valuation are hardly distinguishable for the average layman, the public and the media.

The spokesperson of science must know that they carry a high degree of social responsibility. Objectivity in expert problem assessments and scientific pluralism form the professional virtues of the scientific enterprise. Only they can ensure that the whole range of climate policy options will be presented to policy makers. False alarmism and worst case scenarios indicate all too often that some researchers are not interested in balanced assessments but in sovereignty over the discourse and, possibly also in grants and funding. Those who know how to scare people the most are not those who are always right. There are countless people who – without being driven by horror stories – are still interested in less-polluting cars, in recycling, in caring for their environment, people who have costly solar panels mounted on their roofs and so want to be good people."

In this mode, Dr Arman Nyilas deals with further criticism of the current state of climate research. I thank the author that he has made the text available.

### **We Need New Goals and a Change in Strategy**

What is needed is a change in strategy: instead of focusing on arbitrarily fixed CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets, Europe should use its innovative potential and increase the exploration of new technologies. Only a return to rational debates about energy efficiency will take us forward. Many of them do not need to focus on carbon dioxide. Resource conservation is in our own interest, regardless of climate change.

Climate policy needs to be saved from false alarmism. There are no signs, there is no evidence that we face impending doom or disaster. Liberals in particular should distance themselves from attempts to drive climate policy by means of doom mongering, fear and intimidation. What is also needed is a new, wide-ranging and transparent approach in climate science. All scientific views and currents must be considered, none should be excluded any longer.

Adapting to inevitable climate change must be given priority. Let us reflect the fact that adaptation to constantly, sometimes dramatically changing climatic conditions has been the norm in human history and a success story of evolution. After all, the resources invested for adaptation have always been worthwhile.



# Why the EU Should Re-Consider its Unilateral Climate Policy

THE EU NEEDS A FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF ITS **FAILED CLIMATE POLICY**

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BY **BARONESS EMMA NICHOLSON**



The European Union is in the midst of a severe economic and financial crisis. Europe's debt burden is mounting, unemployment is rising, industries are struggling and there are growing concerns over the future of the Euro. EU governments are desperately struggling to contain these crises. Despite the economic and financial disarray, the European Commission is pushing its controversial proposal to raise the EU's unilateral CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target to 30 percent by 2020. It estimates that the total cost of such a decision would be around 81 billion euro – some 11 billion euro more than originally predicted. Until now, the EU has agreed only to cut emissions – unilaterally – by 20 percent from 1990 levels.

Finance ministers and business leaders have criticised the EU's unilateral approach and warned that it would send the wrong signal to European industry in times of a severe economic crisis. EU member states are deeply divided on stepping up on their unilateral emissions targets. While countries like the UK and the Netherlands support the move to 30 percent, they are facing fierce opposition not only from Eastern Europe, but also from Italy, Germany and France. The whole climate agenda is confronted by growing doubt and criticism, not least as a result of the so-called Climategate scandal and the failure of the Copenhagen climate summit.

Decarbonisation requires growing subsidies from the taxpayer and sharply increased energy bills for business, industry, and the householder. The reason the world relies overwhelmingly on carbon-based energy is not because of the political strength of the oil industry. It is because fossil fuels are by far the cheapest form of energy. This is unlikely to change anytime soon. Decarbonisation, in effect, means replacing relatively cheap forms of energy generation to high cost energy. As a result, the economic cost goes up while the pace of economic growth slows down.

It does not make any sense to make European industry, and manufacturing in particular, uncompetitive – or to drive it out of the EU, and thus further weaken Europe's economy, by driving up energy costs. Nor does it make sense to increase fuel poverty in this way. Europe's economies desperately need a competitive and thriving manufacturing sector if Europe is to prosper. Competitive energy prices are vital to the success of manufacturers, especially energy intensive users.

There is another socio-economic aspect that is often overlooked: Fundamental to the multi-billion government subsidies for solar and wind energy companies is a direct transfer of wealth and money from the poor to the well-off. By subsidizing the biggest land owners, green companies and investors in uncompetitive but highly subsidised products, ordinary taxpayers are forced to foot the bill for costly renewables.

The debt crisis in Europe is likely to negatively impact on climate policies and renewable energy schemes that have benefited from massive government subsidies. As EU governments are confronted by major debt and budgetary problems, excessive climate change pro-

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grammes and subsidies for costly renewables are being cut all over Europe – regardless of the EU’s long-held climate agenda.

A number of countries have experienced a political backlash over their renewable energy schemes. Tens of billions of euros of taxpayers’ money have been pumped into projects that depend on endless government handouts. Each of the 35,000 solar jobs in Germany, for instance, is subsidized to the tune of 130,000 euro. According to estimates by the Rhine-Westphalia Institute for Economic Research, solar subsidies alone will cost German electricity consumers nearly 80 billion euro in the next fifteen years. With the Spanish government desperately trying to cut its budget wherever it can, the 6.2 billion euro subsidies it hands out annually to renewable energy companies and investors are unlikely to survive.

It might be possible to make a case for decarbonisation if it were undertaken on a worldwide basis. But the failure of the Copenhagen Climate Summit and the international deadlock over a post-Kyoto climate agreement shows that there is no prospect of this. The EU offer in Copenhagen to raise its unilateral CO<sub>2</sub> reductions target to 30 percent did not sway other governments to accept binding emissions reductions by other regions.

A legally binding climate treaty would force poor and developing nations to impose restrictions on their use of cheap fossil energy and would thus threaten their economic growth and development. Countries such as India and China are in the midst of economic and energy booms that will determine much of the 21st century. Even if they significantly increased their energy efficiency and were able to introduce an extensive assortment of low-carbon technologies (which is in the range of the possible), it is still expected that China’s and India’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will more than double over the next three decades.

By 2050, the combined population of China and India will have grown to a staggering three billion people. By then, most Chinese and Indians will have adopted an urban lifestyle, with cars, air conditioning, refrigerators, televisions and computers. This rate of population and economic growth together with the most extraordinary rise in energy demand makes any hope of medium-term emission reductions redundant.

In light of these international developments, it is imprudent for the EU to continue a failed policy of unilateral target setting that burdens Europe’s households and industries with additional costs in complete isolation from the rest of the world. Instead, it would be wiser, to suspend all decisions on additional unilateral targets and to hold a fundamental review of EU climate policy in the light of the outcome of the UN’s next climate summit at Cancun. EU leaders would be well advised to grasp that the economic crisis has rendered costly climate policies untenable.

The EU needs to come up with new approaches and ideas that take into consideration the reality of an international stalemate and the fact that much of the climate agenda has become hugely unpopular among voters who are increasingly hostile to green taxes.



# Copenhagen and Cancun

DEAD END OF EUROPE'S UNILATERAL CLIMATE POLICY

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BY DR BENNY PEISER

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The failure of the UN climate summit in Copenhagen is a historical watershed that marks the beginning of the end of climate hysteria. Not only does it epitomise the failure of the EU's environmental policy, it also symbolises the loss of Western dominance. The failure of the climate summit was not only predictable – it was inevitable. There was no way out from the cul-de-sac into which the international community has manoeuvred itself. The global deadlock simply reflects the contrasting, and in the final analysis irreconcilable, interests of the West and the rest of the world. The result is likely to be an indefinite moratorium on international climate legislation. After Copenhagen, the chances for a binding successor of the Kyoto Protocol are as good as zero.

The extent of the debacle and the shift in the balance of geopolitical power was demonstrated by the fact that the final accord was made without the participation of the European Union. The exclusion of Europe is a remarkable symbol of the EU's growing loss of influence, a green bureaucracy that was not even asked whether they agreed with the non-binding declaration by the BASIC nations China, India, South Africa and Brazil, plus the USA. Although the Copenhagen conference was held in a European capital, the negotiations and the final result of the conference were totally outside European involvement.

## Climate Poker

The visibly shaken EU leaders had to admit that they were taken by surprise and had been outmanoeuvred by China, India and the USA. US President Obama and the leaders of India and China had left Copenhagen long before the European heads of state were forced to agree with an accord which had been reached without their input. A rejection of the Asian-American Copenhagen Accord would have been an option, but thus it would have pushed the EU into the extremist corner of Hugo Chavez and Robert Mugabe.

The failed climate summit caused a tectonic shift in international relations and left behind a new political landscape. After Copenhagen, green Europe looks rather antiquated and the rest of the world looks totally different. The principles on which Europe's climate policies were founded and which formed the basis of the Kyoto Protocol have lost their power while the EU itself lost authority and influence.

True-blooded advocates of 'Realpolitik' who hardly exist in the climate policy debate had warned for a long time that Copenhagen would fail to bridge the divergent interests of the West and the developing countries. For political realists it is no surprise whatever that all key decisions were postponed indefinitely. What is more, there is little doubt that China and India are the big winners of the Copenhagen climate poker. The two emerging superpowers managed to win new strategic allies, even among Western nations. China's and India's strategy to align themselves with other developing countries in opposition to protectionist threats by the U.S. and the EU proved itself as very successful. In the end, their persistent 'No' even forced the Obama administration to join the anti-green alliance.

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The Asian-American Accord connotes a categorical 'No' to legally binding emission targets. This means that a concrete timescale for the curtailing of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, let alone the reduction of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, has been kicked into the long grass. The green dream of industrial de-carbonisation has been postponed indefinitely.

### The 'No' is Non-Negotiable

The imminent danger of a legally binding climate treaty that would force developing nations to impose extremely costly restrictions on cheap energy and thus their economic growth and development was quashed. 'Business as usual' seems to be the veritable motto of international climate policy for years to come, perhaps for decades. Despite the manifest fiasco, considerable resistance to admit defeat and to accept the new reality still exists in many European capitals. Thus, we hear the usual post-conference mantra: but at the climate conference after Cancun we will be successful. The decisions which were postponed in Copenhagen will be agreed to at the next climate summit in Cancun – and if not in Mexico, then at the COP17 in Johannesburg in 2012.

This green rhetoric has no basis in reality. It's a green *fata morgana*. After all, the rejection by the developing world to commit to legally binding emissions targets is not a tactical negotiation ploy. The categorical 'No' is absolute and non-negotiable. Due to the evident lack of realistic energy substitutes, developing countries have no choice but to continue to rely on the cheapest form of energy, i.e. fossil fuels – for the foreseeable future.

The European rejection of reality is particularly silly as absolutely nothing was decided in Copenhagen. Even the promised 100 billion dollars climate fund are not binding and are unlikely to materialise in any case. Of course, these figures are pure fantasy because both the EU and the US have made these sums conditional on the signatures of China and India under the climate treaty, a proviso that is not going to happen in the foreseeable future.

The developing nations are not stupid. They have ensnared the West in a climate trap that green politicians set for themselves. To meet the growing pressure by the West, developing countries are demanding 200 to 400 billion dollars – per annum – for so-called 'climate compensation' and 'adaptation measures', together with billions worth of technology transfers. It is difficult to see how the West, already heavily curtailed as a result of the economic crisis, would be prepared to transfer such an astronomical amount of money. Even in good times it would have been a foolish idea.

For too long, Western leaders have been convinced that they are pursuing a clever strategy. The EU promised, in principle, a financial transfer of 30 billion dollars in the next three years to poor countries. However, Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission, made perfectly clear that the climate billions are conditional on an international agreement with binding emissions limits.

The Copenhagen fiasco will undoubtedly trigger a rethinking, especially of European climate policy. Especially East European member states – but probably also the Italian and German governments – will be demanding a drastic reassessment of unilateral climate targets which are turning into an economic liability and a political risk. They are already putting a heavy burden on European economies as well as driving ever higher the costs for energy, industrial output and the general public.

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Most likely, all efforts of reaching a binding climate agreement will fail in coming years. The pressure of lowering expectations of a green utopia will therefore increase. The developing countries cannot afford to slow, let alone reduce their dependence on cheap energy and economic development as any significant curtailment would undermine social stability and risk political instability.

Even in the Western world, the general climate hysteria shows a marked cooling. If recent opinion polls are to be believed, the obsession with climate change, which was a common feature during much of the 1980s and 90s, no longer exists. In its place, climate fatigue is spreading. The novelty of climate change and the habitual alarms have lost their original shock value. Instead, the public seems to be warming to the idea of gradual and inevitable climate change.

International climate politics face a profound crisis. Green taxes and climate levies in whatever form and shape have become political liabilities. Revolts among eastern European countries, in Australia and even among Obama's Blue Dog Democrats are forcing law-makers to renounce support for unilateral climate policies. In the UK, the party-political consensus on climate change is beginning to rapture in face of massive spending cuts while Britain's coalition government is confronted by a growing public backlash against green taxes and rising fuel bills.

However, the biggest losers of the Copenhagen fiasco appear to be climate science and the scientific establishment who, with a very few distinguished exceptions, have promoted unmitigated climate alarm and hysteria. It confirms beyond doubt that most governments have lost trust in the advice given by climate alarmists and the IPCC. The Copenhagen accord symbolises the loss of political power by Europe whose climate policies have been rendered obsolete.

### **Loss of Credibility**

Climate science, too, is facing a crisis of credibility. It is confronted by growing doubt and criticism, not in the least as a result of the so-called Climategate scandal, the revelations about the behind-the-scene shenanigans by leading climate researchers. Moreover, the unforeseen arrest of the global warming trend has only increased the credibility crisis and has led to growing and deepening scepticism among wide sectors of the public.

The standstill of the global warming trend, which has now lasted for more than 10 years, as well as the global economic crisis have greatly dampened the enthusiasm for expensive climate policies as well as for green taxes and exorbitant subsidies.

Above all, the debacle of Copenhagen shows that conventional climate policies have no future. What is necessary now is the development of alternative approaches that are politically realistic and economically feasible. In order for a new climate realism to be successful, governments and government agencies should start, at last, to engage and involve critics of conventional climate politics. Instead of continuing to follow the futile approaches and failed policies promoted by climate alarmists for far too long, governments would be well advised to introduce more balance and more transparent assessments of climate science and policy research.



# Science

LOOKING FOR TRUTH, **SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS**

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BY **DR ARMAN NYILAS**



No statement in the history of mankind has been so strained as assertions such as ‘scientifically correct’ or ‘scientific consensus’. While in ancient times the high priests controlled the common people with the help of astrological observations, today there are cases of data misuses of a particularly bad type: data from scientific studies are twisted and even skewed, intentionally or due to ignorance, to appease the public or to conceal actual facts.

Quid est veritas? What is the truth? That has always been the question of questions. With these three words, Pontius Pilatus wanted to indicate his inability to answer it. About 100 years after these events in Jerusalem, Claudius Ptolemy from Alexandria drafted a world view that remained valid for almost 1500 years. It was based on findings of Apollonius of Perga, a pupil of Euclid, who had found an explanation for the observed orbits of the planets three hundred years before Claudius Ptolemy. The explanation placed the earth at the centre of the universe.

All other celestial bodies moved in perfect circular orbits, each planet on a small circle, the epicycle, whose centre constantly performed a much larger circular path around the world’s centre, i.e. the centre of the earth. This epicycle theory had, measured by today’s standards, a very high accuracy. When Tycho Brahe carried out positioning measurements under the old system in the late 16th century, the deviation was not even two minutes of arc compared to modern measurements. Johannes Kepler toppled the geocentric world view around 1600 against clerical opposition. Today we know, for example, that many measurements by Ptolemy were adjusted to observations in order to support his theory, the usual method to seek and find truth for a long time. In our age, however, such medieval approaches should be obsolete.

Nevertheless, in the modern world, which is dominated by scientific technology, it has become increasingly common that conspiracy theories and disaster scenarios are made up, research is exaggerated for media hype and profitably in the struggle for the truth. Even distortions and lies are sometimes brought to light, often only after many years, after they have already caused damage.

These troubling developments climaxed in 2002/2003 with the so-called ‘Schön affair’. Jan Hendrik Schön, a graduate of the University of Constance, had forged the data of his studies on ‘groundbreaking results for the development of computer chips beyond today’s silicon technology’. He published several of his articles in the journals ‘Science’ and ‘Nature’ after they were ‘peer reviewed’, the traditional method of scientific quality assurance, and was considered as a possible Nobel Prize candidate. Finally, after many years, the fib was discovered and he was immediately dismissed from Bell Laboratories in the United States. He was deprived of his doctorate by a court in 2009.

Unfortunately, consciously or unconsciously, forgeries have found their way into scientific research. Climate science in particular seems to be an attractive area for charlatans, professional spotlight seekers and political activists.

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## A Critical View of Climate Research

Media coverage of the climate debates has been ongoing since the 1980s. They have been heavily politicized, especially since the Rio Summit<sup>[1]</sup> in 1992. Eminent institutions have been raising the enormity of global warming by framing climate change as both a catastrophic threat and a direct result of our industrial and technical way of life.

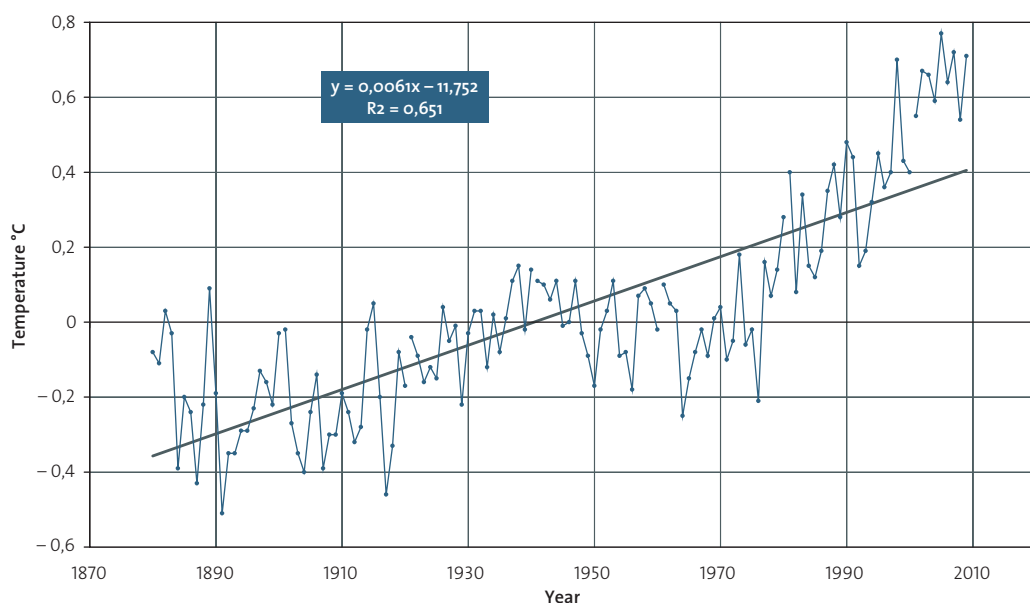
**Note** The author of this article is a freelance scientist. He has declared on oath that he has not received financial funding either from the nuclear industry or the oil or coal industry.

Two key parameters have been advanced both by the media and in the scientific literature, not least in order to convince the public to accept so-called climate taxes. The two parameters are: I) the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the atmosphere which has been measured since about 1958, and II) the global mean temperature increase since 1880.

The historical levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, which has been recorded since 1958 by measurements by the Mauna Loa Observatory at the height of 4,000 meters<sup>[2]</sup>, have been approximated for the last 400,000 years by measurements extracted from Antarctic ice cores. Scientific criticism that is questioning the reliability of this approach<sup>[3]</sup> has not been considered.

The parameter global mean temperature, on the other hand, is a purely statistical quantity. To determine the average of different temperatures in a defined space is very simple but the meaningfulness of this average temperature is rather problematic. Anyone who is looking at the method of obtaining averaged temperature data since 1880 discovers quickly that for much of this time very few weather stations existed and that most of them were located in the northern hemisphere. Therefore, older data need to be treated with caution.

When the currently available data are drawn on a chart as in Figure 1, we see that, globally averaged, there has been a temperature increase of 0.61 °C within the past 100 years.



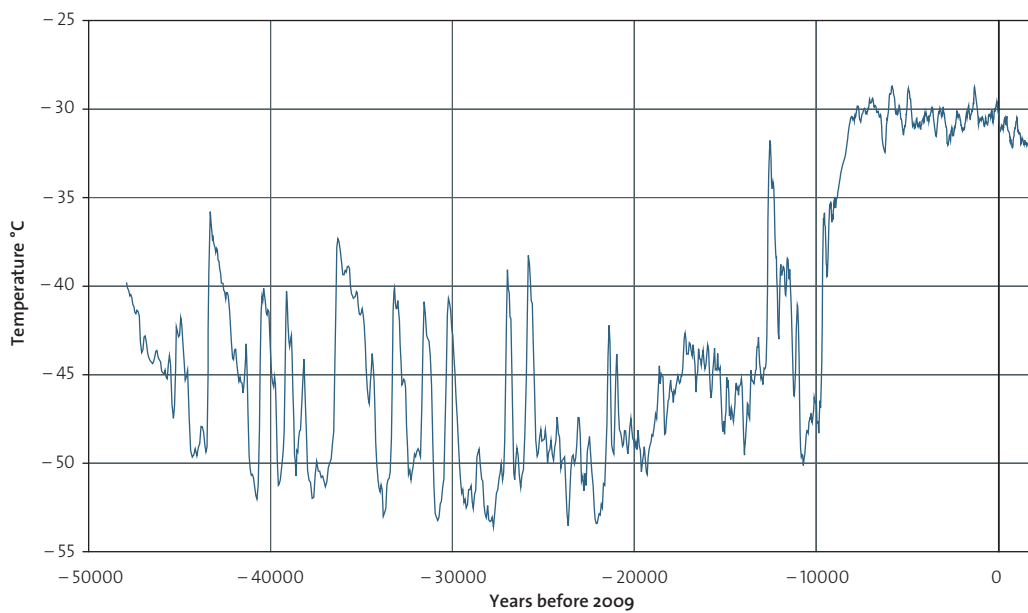
**Figure 1** Global mean temperature data of the earth's surface from 1880 to 2009, taken from NASA GISS source. The chart is referred in the literature as a temperature anomaly chart<sup>[4]</sup>. The base temperature is arbitrary and is the average between 1951 and 1980.

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The data is based on a collection of NASA<sup>[4]</sup> and the arbitrarily chosen zeroline is the average temperature between 1951 and 1980. The linear regression analysis, with a regression coefficient of  $R^2 \sim 65$  percent, is very low and shows that such data can be analyzed statistically but one should be very careful with the results. Nevertheless, the calculated trends are far more important. A slight warming from 1880 to 1938 was followed by a stronger cooling period that lasted until 1970. Then temperatures rose again until 1998, which has been followed by a period of stagnation from 1998 to the present day. A more complex statistical analysis might even detect a slight cooling in the last 10 years.

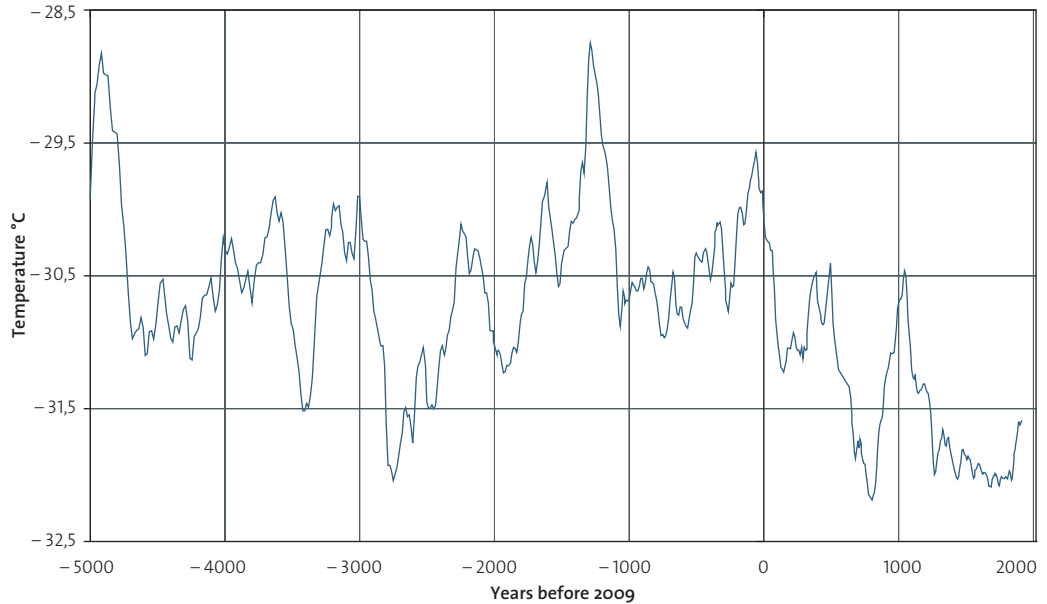
Throughout geological times, the earth has been affected by changing climates. Ice core research in Antarctica and Greenland clearly evidence these changes. Moreover, these data also illustrate that episodes of abrupt climate change have been the rule rather than the exception.

Data collected by NOAA's World Data Center of Paleoclimatology, Boulder, USA<sup>[5]</sup> are shown below (Figure 2). They originate from the central Greenland ice cores which are dating back to 49,000 years before our time. According to analysis, the data is accurate to about 1 percent. Figure 2 shows the overall course of temperature of central Greenland from 1920 to 49,000 years ago.



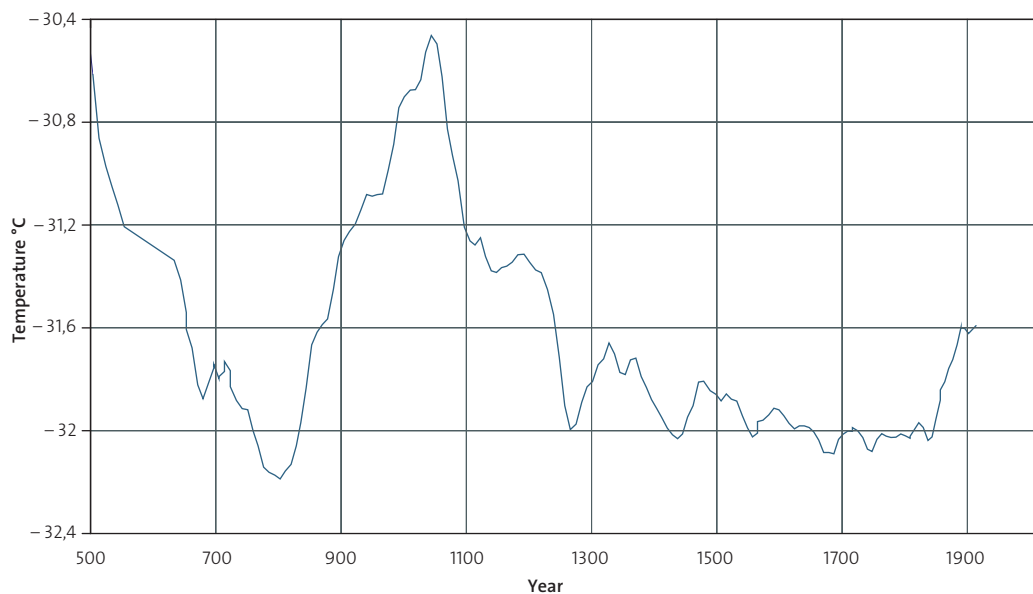
**Figure 2** Temperature data from central Greenland, reconstructed from ice core data, show abrupt climate changes of the earth's surface temperature. The onset of rapid global warming about 10,000 years ago ended about 8,000 years ago. It is astonishing that high civilizations began to develop only since then.

The enlarged section in Figure 3 shows the conditions of the last 7,000 years. It is clear that the climate was warming and cooling in quick succession.



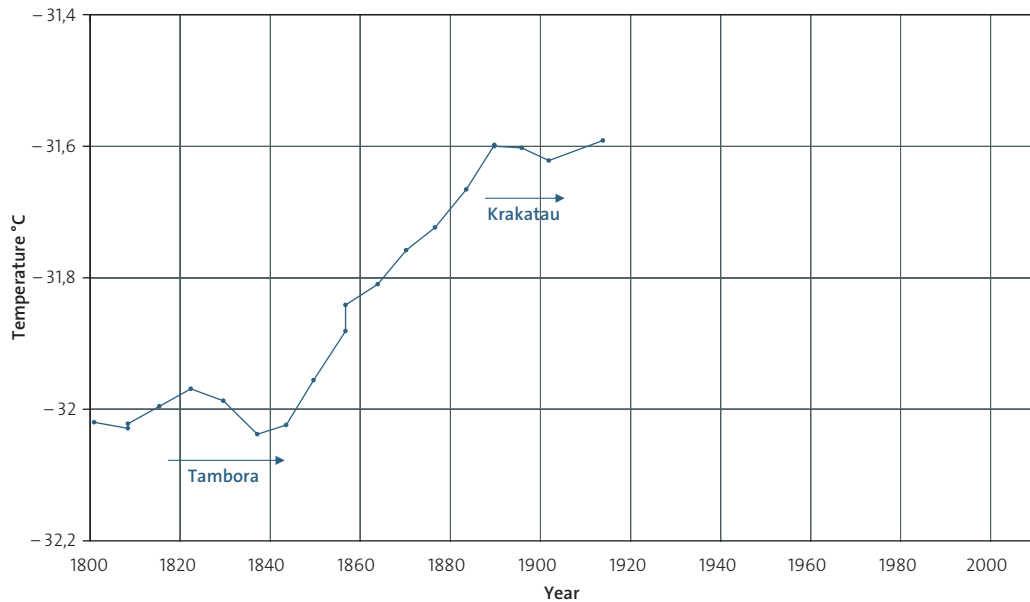
**Figure 3** Temperature data from central Greenland, reconstructed from ice core data, show the abrupt changes in the Earth's surface until 7,000 years ago. Several so-called climate optima were followed by rapid cooling phases.

Furthermore, the onset of the climate optimum around 1000 AD is very obvious. During this period, the coastal regions of Greenland were colonized by the Vikings. They were depopulated after the cooling in the years after 1300 AD. Figure 4 shows the compilation of these data in a chart.



**Figure 4** Temperature data from central Greenland, reconstructed from ice core data, show the climate optimum around 1000 AD. Furthermore, the Maunder and Dalton minima and the Little Ice Age around 1700 are also clearly visible. These minima correlate with sunspots activities. During the minima the number of sunspots was very low or they were missing almost completely.

Figure 5, which focuses on the last section of the Greenland temperature reconstruction, shows that far-off events can affect the climate with a small delay. The volcanic eruptions of Tambora and Krakatoa in Indonesia<sup>[6,7]</sup> stopped the warming trend briefly. The trend even decreased considerably.



**Figure 5** Temperature data from central Greenland, reconstructed from ice core data, show the last major events in the Earth's history. In 1815 the huge volcanic eruption of Tambora led to a cooling of the earth. Similarly, the Krakatoa volcano eruption in 1883 caused a small cooling phase of the Earth, which stopped the warming trend for a short time.

### Twisting Climate Research

The IPCC refers frequently to Figure 1 as evidence of anthropogenic induced warming of the earth. Why does the IPCC not base its hypothesis on a full assessment of all available evidence? Why do they not show the entire temperature curve, which identifies the major geological events since 1800, when the earth, after the cooling period of the Little Ice Age, began to warm again? Perhaps this is the case because the Industrial Revolution only began in earnest after 1900. Perhaps this is why only this portion of the curve was selected and is used by the IPCC as 'proof' of the anthropogenic influences on the earth's climate. And why is figure 3 not included in their presentation? After all, according to the data in Figure 3, the earth is still some 1.2 °C cooler today than in the period of medieval climate optimum around 1000 AD, when no industrial facilities existed on earth.

### The Hockey Stick Controversy

The next IPCC scandal was triggered by Michael Mann's hockey stick graph<sup>[8]</sup>. In 2001 this chart was presented in the IPCC report as the most compelling evidence for man-made global warming. After vehement criticism and statistical analysis by Stephen McIntyre and Ross McKittrick<sup>[9]</sup>, the hockey stick was largely invalidated. It would appear that its creators, Mann, Bradley and Hughes had manipulated data<sup>[10]</sup> in their favour. The 2001 Hockey Stick was finally removed by the IPCC report in 2007.

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## The Climategate Scandal

In November 2009, 61 Mega Bytes of information and data were stolen by unknown persons from the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia and were made freely available on the internet. The data contained approximately 1,079 emails, including confidential ones, and 72 documents, some of them of a sensitive nature. But do they show that some scientists are trying to silence climate sceptics? Some facts appear to support this charge:

- One email expressed joy over the death of John Daly in 2004, a scientist from Tasmania, who was always ready to interpret climate change accurately. An eminent climate sceptic no less!
- Discussions as to how to hide data which showed a recent temperature decrease.
- Discussions as to how to eradicate the Medieval Warm Period.
- Some scientists were assigned selected for peer-review in order to block critical papers although scientists are supposed to act as independent referees.

These data thefts provide evidence for the danger that truth seeking is undermined if financial and political interests become dominant factors .

## The IPCC's Himalayan Glaciers Fiasco

In January 2010, the international community was taken by surprise by the announcement that the disappearance of Himalayan glaciers, which had been predicted by the IPCC for 2035, was based on an error. Of course, there is always a small likelihood that an incorrect number finds its way into a scientific report. That is beyond question. However, it follows that such a mistake should be openly admitted and swiftly corrected – and excused by applying political spin in order to defend the error.

The Himalayan Glaciers scandal began to unravel back in August 2009 with the publication of an extensive report by V.K. Rayna, the former director of the State Geological Institute <sup>[11]</sup>. In November 2009, an angry exchange between the Indian Minister of the Environment and the former railway engineer of the TATA Company and current head of IPCC, the Nobel Laureate Rajendra Pachauri took place. The Indians were surprised by the statement in the IPCC report that the Himalayan glaciers would be mostly gone by 2030. In the discussion, Pachauri even accused the Indian Minister of arrogance and of ignoring the work of serious scientists.

What had happened? The whole story goes back to 1996 when the Russian Glaciologist V.M. Kotlyakov published an extensive report for UNESCO <sup>[12]</sup>. On page 66 the researcher set out his hypothesis: due to the global warming, the Himalayan glaciers could shrink by 80 percent and nearly disappear by the year 2350. This claim was accepted without qualification by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and was erroneously included as 2035 by the IPCC. The year 2035 was included in the IPCC report although experts had questioned its accuracy and cautioned about the reliability of a statistical link between global warming and more frequent and more devastating environmental disasters. They warned that there was not enough evidence for this statistical correlation. The claim that it existed, understandably, caused concern. In 2008, Kotlyakov stressed the complexity of climate research and began to distance himself from his earlier hypothesis <sup>[13]</sup>. And in January 2010 even the head of the IPCC acknowledged 'predictive errors' in the IPCC report.

*Translation by Philipp Mueller*



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