

ACADEMIA SCIENTIARUM  
ET ARTIUM EUROPAEA

EUROPÄISCHE AKADEMIE  
DER WISSENSCHAFT UND  
KÜNSTE



EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES AND ARTS

L'ACADEMIE EUROPEENNE  
DES SCIENCES ET DES  
ARTS

## LET'S BE HONEST

Human activity is most *likely* responsible for climate warming.

Most of the climatic warming over the last 50 years is *likely* to have been caused by increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Documented long-term climate changes include changes in Arctic temperatures and ice, widespread changes in precipitation amounts, ocean salinity, wind patterns and extreme weather including droughts, heavy precipitation, heat waves and the intensity of tropical cyclones.<sup>1</sup>



The above development potentially has dramatic consequences for mankind's future. Against this background, the European Academy of Sciences and Arts:

- suggests that EU level effort is needed to investigate whether products in commerce could be labelled with an "*environmental impact*" mark. It should consider product life-cycle - production, use and disposal. Such a label, in the opinion of the Academy, would enhance public environmental awareness.
- welcomes the "Save Our Selves" (SOS) and Live Earth initiatives<sup>2</sup> to begin a process of global communication that aims to mobilize people all over the world to take action. The Academy agrees that only sustained global movement can achieve actions required to confront the rising tide of climate change.
- welcomes the \$25 million prize offered by Sir Richard Branson for the scientist who comes up with a way to extract greenhouse gases from the atmosphere<sup>3</sup>. The Academy invites the scientific community to meet the challenge.



Adopted by the General Assembly of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts on 3rd March 2007 in Salzburg. The General Assembly expressed its hope that other scientific organisations will support this declaration and make their voice equally heard towards political and industrial leaders.

The General Assembly requested the Academy Presidency to transmit the above declaration to the responsible individuals in the European Commission, the European Parliament and relevant European industry associations, as well as to ALLEA, Academia Europaea, EASA, EURAB, Euroscience and ICSU.

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<sup>1</sup> UN IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Fourth Assessment Report, Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis, Summary for Policymakers, 5 February 2007.

<sup>2</sup> <http://liveearth.org/>.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.livescience.com/environment/070209\\_ap\\_gw\\_branson.html](http://www.livescience.com/environment/070209_ap_gw_branson.html).