



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**



June 2012

for the people | for the planet | for the future

Network News

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Dear Friends,

Summer has arrived (even in Belgium!) and we are working at full steam before we part for the summer holidays. We are very pleased to welcome Magda back from her sabbatical, and are thankful to both Agnieszka and David for their great work leading FoEE in her absence.

In the last month, the European Parliament showed overwhelming support for measuring Europe's resource use. This was a significant victory for our resource use campaign. You can read about this, and other updates from our campaigns from page 5.

You'll also find a full report of the FAB programme meeting. Thirty Food, Agriculture and biodiversity campaigners met in March, in Hungary, to talk about our vision for food and farming in Europe.

Beyond our regular campaigns, the office welcomes Daphne from Global 2000, who will be working on their European Citizen's Initiative 'My voice against nuclear power'. The initiative aims to mobilise a million

European citizens against nuclear power., using the latest tool from the European Commission allowing citizens to directly influence European political processes. You can read more about this on page 10, alongside an interview with two experienced nuclear campaigners.

Our groups have also been busy - and we are excited to feature their success again in this edition. For those who want more regular updates we are continually updating our new website with news from groups - make sure to have a look.

The majority of FoEE's staff are currently in the Austrian pre-alps at the AGM, but there are a number of other important FoEE events taking place in early and late summer. These include "Get Moving!" a four day training event on mobilisation for activists from FoE groups, as well as the Young Friends of the Earth Summer Camp in Spain - find out more about both in this edition.

Finally, Paul and Natacha from the Economic Justice team are



Friends of the Earth Europe

Contents

- P3 - Office news**
- P4 - People news**
- P5 - Campaign news**
- P7 - YFoEE news**
- P8 - Land, life and justice in Uganda**
- P10 - Your voice against nuclear**
- P12 - Groups' news**
- P15 - Publication/video news**
- P16 - FoEE actions**

getting geared up to go to Rio+20 where they will challenge the role of big business and the 'Green Economy' in the UN talks.

Enjoy reading and we hope you enjoy the summer sun.
Stine, Francesca, Sam and Celia



Global 2000 launch their campaign 'My voice against nuclear'. Page 10



Life, land and justice in Uganda. The impacts of land grabbing. Page 8



Young Friends of the Earth Europe head to Bonn. Page 16

Office news

FoEE's new Strategic Plan

It's time to start preparing for FoEE's second Strategic Plan - now simply called FoEE's 'strategy'. FoEE's first and current Strategic Plan has been running since 2010 and will be in place until 2013.

This means FoEE needs to develop a new strategy to start in 2014. This year's AGM (in Austria) will serve as the starting point for discussion and planning at network level. FoEE has now entered an intensive strategic phase to lay the foundation for these important discussions, and

we strongly encourage all members groups to get involved to ensure a sound and representative strategy.

For any questions you may have on this topic, please contact Magda: magda.stockiewicz@foeeurope.org

June 11-15th Austria: FoEE Annual General Meeting.

For more information contact Stine: stine.nielsen@foeeurope.org

September 3-5th Belgium: FoEE GMO campaigners' meeting.

For more information contact Mute: mute.schimpf@foeeurope.org

September 18-21st Antwerp, Belgium: "Get Moving!" FoEE training event on mobilization.

For more information contact David: david.heller@foeeurope.org

August 14-19th, Spain: Young Friends of the Earth Summer Camp 2012, and Foe Spain's *As Corcerizas* education centre, near Ourense, Galicia, Spain. Contact sophie.manson@foeeurope.org

Take action



Act Now: be an energy hero

Certain member states are blocking effective action on energy efficiency during the ongoing negotiations on the European Union's draft Energy Efficiency Directive. Be an energy hero! Take action for a strong EU Energy Efficiency Directive: www.caneurope.org/take-action



Take action for sustainable land consumption

We are currently consuming an area of land one and a half times the size of our continent. This is pushing up food prices, driving land-grabs, contributing to climate change and biodiversity loss, and increasing social inequalities. Take action and tell European decision-makers to reduce Europe's global land use footprint

www.foeeurope.org/sustainable-land-consumption-action-080512



Reclaim the UN from corporate capture

We are very concerned about the growing influence of big corporations and business lobby groups within the UN, through government delegations, and in multilateral negotiations. As governments gather again in Rio this month, we believe it is time to reclaim the UN from corporate capture, and restore it as a peoples' space!

Write to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and ask him to reclaim the UN from corporate capture: www.foei.org/en/get-involved/take-action/reclaim-the-un-from-corporate-capture



Tell MEPs to vote to curb food speculation

Food speculation is contributing to higher and more volatile food prices. We need to tell MEPs to vote to end excessive food speculation, and put the hunger of people before the greed of banks.

www.makefinancework.org/home-english/food-speculation/take-action-82/

People news

Hellos

Daphne Rieder joined the Friends of the Earth Europe office in May where she will coordinate the European Citizens Initiative 'My voice against nuclear power' (www.my-voice.eu). Daphne moved from Greece to Austria to study ecology and has been working at GLOBAL 2000/ Friends of the Earth Austria on GMOs, pesticides and finally nuclear energy and renewables.



Muriel Treibich will be working at FoEE until early September. She has just finished her 1st year of a 2 year Masters Degree in International Relations in Lille. She will be working with Natacha and the Economic Justice team on ethics issues and conflicts of interests in the European Parliament.

Last year, she spent a year in



Rodrigo and Cibele gave birth to Helena on April 5th. She has been gaining weight (especially in her cheeks!!) and learning new things by the day! Helena loves to smile and to make cute noises!

Washington DC as an exchange student, while researching the links between environmental governance and peace-building at the Environmental Law Institute and UNEP.

She then spent 2 months in Uruguay with her family and to do an internship in human rights with the NGO SERPAJ. While there, she worked for the first time with Friends of the Earth (REDES-Amigos de la Tierra) as a volunteer researching and translating articles for their online radio 'radiomundoreal'.

Goodbyes

Daniel Pentzlin, after a rewarding, inspiring, and interesting three and a half years (for both him and for his colleagues!) left the organisation at the end of April.

Over the course of his time at FoEE Daniel carried out invaluable research and



campaigning on Corporate Accountability and Accountable Finance, most recently developing the campaign on food speculation and the finance of land grabs, as well as developing a new online action tool for the organisation.

Daniel started a new adventure in May as "Climate Campaigner - Crisis Response" at Greenpeace International in Amsterdam. But for the fun, laughter and friendship, Daniel will always be part of the FoE family

Marco Cadena worked with the Network Development team for 6 months, during which he helped coordinate several great Young FoEE events – including the Durban-in-Brussels convergence, and the YFoEE Network Gathering. He was involved in the analysis of the network development questionnaire and capacity building work with the network. We're happy to hear that Marco will still be around in the FoEE network in the future – as a volunteer with Young FoEE, as well as supporting member groups.



Campaign and network development news

Localism is the way forward - FAB programme meeting

Thirty participants from 18 FoEE groups and Young FoEE put localism at the centre of a new vision for food and farming in Europe. At the programme meeting hosted on the shore of the Danube river in Hungary in March, food, agriculture and biodiversity campaigners endorsed principles for the future of food - focusing on local production, consumption within limits, and connecting with grassroots movements.

Exploring examples of 'positive campaigning', activists shared stories of how their FoE groups are working to create solutions – from introducing local and organic food in schools in Spain, to building movements in Germany (bringing together beekeepers, GM-free regions, urban gardening, animal welfare, development, and church groups); from stopping urban sprawl in Switzerland, to promoting regionalisation in the Netherlands.

The meeting debated the following: What do we mean by local and seasonal? How can we feed the world with agro-ecology? How should we prioritise land use when demand and competition are rising (e.g. for fuels, bio-products)?

Putting localism at the heart of the future European food and farming campaign

Get moving: Mobilising for environmental justice 18th-21st September

Friends of the Earth Europe is organising a four-day training event on mobilisation, called "Get moving: mobilising for environmental justice".

The event will take place in Belgium, from **18th to 21st September 2012**, and we would like you, or someone from your group, to take part. The training is open to staff and volunteers from all FoE Europe member groups, and we are asking groups to nominate one or two people to attend. You can find out more and fill in the online application form at: www.amiando.com/get_moving

The 4-day training event aims to allow FoE staff and volunteers to

share skills, experience, knowledge and resources on mobilisation and working with activists.

The event will look at ways to encourage people to take action on your campaigns, as well as ways of reaching new people. There will be discussions on building alliances, and working with activists on the streets and online.

This will be a unique opportunity to meet people from many different FoEE groups, and share ideas on how to organise successful mobilisation activities.

If you've got any questions or comments, please get in touch: david.heller@foeeurope.org

Outcomes: FoEE will develop our 'vision' in a written summary; A working group on 'engaging local movements' will make a proposal on how FoEE can engage and help give political shape to local food activism; A working group on land consumption will develop a study and campaign opportunities for reducing our consumption of land to the level within Europe's borders; A working group on 'creating scandals' will explore opportunities to expose threats to public health from factory farming (glyphosate residues, and antibiotic bacteria in meat).

Shale gas a dangerous experiment on environment and human health

We warned the European Parliament that hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') of shale gas, shale oil, and coal bed methane represent a dangerous experiment on the environment and human health.

The warning came in April following a draft report on shale gas published by MEP Boguslaw Sonik. The draft will influence Europe's position on shale gas, potentially steering Europe's energy policy in completely the wrong direction. Exploiting shale



gas, shale oil and coal bed methane in Europe will increase greenhouse gas emissions and ensure fossil fuel dependency at the expense of renewable energy or cheaper and safer policies to save energy. Additionally, loopholes in European legislation allow companies to remain secretive about chemicals used during fracking, making it impossible to assess the environmental and health risks.

Europe steps towards resource efficient future

As pressure on the world's natural resources increases, the European Parliament showed overwhelming support for measuring Europe's use of resources, in a step towards a resource efficient future, including full incorporation of resource efficiency into the Europe 2020 economic agenda. This is a huge success for the resources campaign, but work will continue, as Europe will not make the most of the environmental, economic and social benefits of resource efficiency without clear targets to reduce, in absolute terms, Europe's consumption of resources.

Ariadna Rodrigo, resource use campaigner for Friends of the Earth Europe, said: *"We now have full parliamentary support for Europe to start measuring its land, water, carbon and material footprints; a crucial step towards creating a more resource efficient Europe."*

Commission urged to take account of full impacts of agrofuels

Over 100 civil society organisations, including Friends of the Earth Europe, wrote to the European Commission calling for the full climate impact of agrofuels, including indirect land use change, to be taken into account in two key pieces of EU legislation. The letter was signed by groups as diverse as Occupy London and WWF!



Marching against shale gas

We told the European Commission that Europe's use of biofuels to fuel its vehicles risks driving land grabs and deforestation, increasing food prices, exacerbating poverty and hunger, and accelerating climate change, and that it needs to take action to ensure Europe's green transport policy discourages those biofuels that cause higher greenhouse gas emissions than fossil fuels.

The Commission is about to make a decision on its legislative proposal on how to deal with this issue. We called on the European Commission to introduce a proposal for feedstock-specific ILUC emission factors when calculating carbon footprints in both the Renewable

Energy and Fuel Quality Directives.

In recent developments the issue went to the highest level in the Commission (the College of Commissioners). The result is a swing more towards our position in the Commission, but further delay in producing a proposal. **Robbie Blake, Agrofuels Campaigner for Friends of the Earth Europe, quoted in Euractiv, said:**

"Enough delay and dithering, until ILUC is properly dealt with, expanding biofuels for our cars will only cause more deforestation and carbon emissions."

For more information:
www.foeeurope.org/agrofuels



Crops planted for biofuels are driving land grabs and deforestation in the South

BNP Paribas challenged over role in food speculation

BNP Paribas was challenged over its involvement in food speculation by Friends of the Earth Europe and Friends of the Earth France, at its annual shareholders' meeting in Paris on 23rd May.

Given the severity of the food crisis and the growing evidence that food speculation is contributing to global hunger, BNP Paribas should follow a precautionary approach and move out of food commodities. Other European banks, such as Scandinavian banking group Nordea and Germany's Deutsche bank, have already

announced plans to move out of food commodities. The board of BNP Paribas were asked to phase out its products linked to agricultural commodity derivatives, in order to ensure that it does not contribute to the food crisis.

BNP Paribas is a major player in global agricultural and energy markets, and offers many funds and commodity-related instruments.

Juliette Renaud, Friends of the Earth France, comments: *"This is part of a general tendency towards the financialization of nature: natural properties are seen by banks simply as capital,*

and converted into financial assets, notwithstanding the major impacts this can have on people and environment. This is what lies behind the green economy proposals to be discussed at the upcoming Rio Summit. Friends of the Earth are demanding an end to the stranglehold of finance over our lives and nature."

For more information on food speculation: www.foeeurope.org/food-speculation

For more on Rio+20 and corporate capture of the UN: www.foeeurope.org/corporate-capture

Young Friends of the Earth news

Young Friends of the Earth Europe Rio+20 action: 5th- 22nd June

Calling for an end to the corporate hijack of our politics and planet

From 20-22 June world leaders will gather for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Marking the twentieth anniversary of the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, this June groups and organisations across the globe are calling for greater people power and democracy in the UN negotiations, and an end to greenwashed solutions to ecological collapse.

Young Friends of the Earth Europe invites you to join us and **TAKE ACTION** in the lead up to these talks. **From 5th- 22nd June** we ask you to organise your own action and join thousands of others in the call for an end to the corporate hijack of our politics and planet.

Young FoEE summer camp – 14th-19th August, Spain

Every year Young Friends of the Earth Europe organises our sum-



This year's summer camp will be held in Spain

mer camp to bring together activists from local and national Young Friends of the Earth groups from across Europe. This year we're excited to announce that it will be taking place from **14-19th August** at the **As Corcerizas** environmental education centre, near Ourense, Spain. The centre is run by Friends of the Earth Galicia, and it's located in the magnificent mountains of north-west Spain.

New YFoEE Steering Group

The new **Steering Group** of Young Friends of the Earth Europe were elected at this year's Young Friends of the Earth Europe **Network Gathering in Switzerland** on 25th March 2012. Each year participants at our annual meeting have the chance to stand and be elected to join a team of volunteers whose role it

is to lead and develop the Young Friends of the Earth Europe network for the next year. This year's team is: **Thessa Meijlis** (the Netherlands), **Tage Erlend Tellnes** (Norway), **Paul Daly** (Scotland), **Maksym Kushch** (Ukraine) and **Susanne Hammel** (Germany).

The new YFoEE steering group in Switzerland



Land, life and justice in Uganda

In April, Friends of the Earth International launched a campaign to stop land grabbing in Uganda 'Life, Land and Justice in Uganda' to coincide with the release of a report revealing the extent of how land grabbing in Uganda is affecting the environment, livelihoods and food sovereignty of communities.

In Africa huge palm oil plantations have come at the expense of local food crops and rainforests. Local people have been prevented from accessing water sources and grazing land. Despite promises of employment, locals have lost their means of livelihood and are struggling to make ends meet.

Our demand for commodity crops like palm oil in Europe is rising, which is driving land grabs like

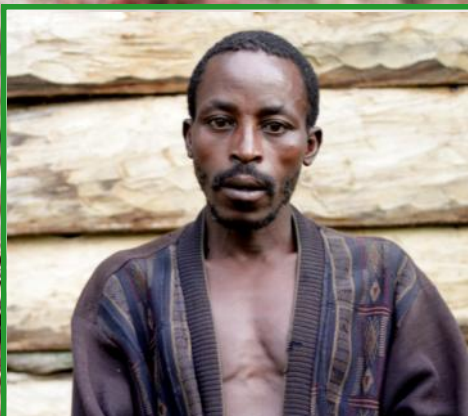
those in Kalangala, Uganda. Whole communities are being displaced and scattered as the political elite offer up land to international buyers without a thought for those living on it.

Betty Obo from Friends of the Earth Uganda explains how this practice is taking hold in Uganda and on the African continent.

In Uganda, since the 1990s, the government has enabled foreign firms to acquire large areas of natural forests and farm land to foreign investors under the pretext of development. BIDCO Uganda Ltd acquired over 30,000 hectares of natural forest land in Kalangala Islands in Lake Victoria to establish palm oil plantations with financial support from the World Bank.

Huge palm oil plantations have come at the expense of local food crops and rainforests

The project promised jobs to local youth but the jobs have not come. It promised tarmac roads, electricity and health centres but these have not yet been provided. Operations of BIDCO are leading to pollution of water and fisheries by chemical fertilizers; dwindling of common forests on public land accompanied by cultural erosion; food insecurity, spiralling food prices; malnutrition; population displacement and changes to the local climate.



Joseph Senyonga, 41, is a subsistence farmer. He now has just two of his original five acres to produce food and generate an income. Years ago, Joseph, along with the rest of the community were given 178 acres of common land through the district committee. For years they farmed the land, but then the plantation arrived and land

became a premium. Wealthy landowners approached the committee and managed to persuade them to take back some of the land given to Joseph.

Once completed the 'elite landowner' leased his land to the company. Yet another form of land grabbing.

Expansion of BIDCOs plantations will lead to the destruction of the legally recommended 200m buffer zone (i.e. from the shore of Lake Victoria to lowest edge of plantations) and a decline in tourism. Malaria infection is on the rise as forest cover and climate change effects proliferate on the island.

The Ugandan government has also attempted to sell Mabira natural forest reserve in central Uganda to foreign investors to establish a sugar cane plantation, but have met stiff resistance from the citizens backed by the international community. For now, Ugandans can say they have won that battle but the war is still on. Who knows? The power of money may eventually eat up the forest; the government's reason for sacrificing this important ecosystem is the rising price of sugar!

Individuals and communities have a continuous relationship with the land they live on and benefit from. Some have legal rights, others don't. After a deal has been struck, some individuals and groups are willing

Communities need to be involved from the beginning

The project promised jobs to local youth but the jobs have not come. It promised tarmac roads, electricity and health centres but these have not yet been provided

to move, some aren't; some are willing to negotiate a better price or other terms of resettlement, and some prefer defending their rights using all the means at their disposal. This all depends on how transparent the process has been. Communities need to be involved from the beginning.

When communities refuse to move, a company may turn to the State for assistance. In some such cases, the State may decide to deploy force, a step which has often led to human rights violations, sometimes grave ones. Such a contentious process violates many human rights, such as the right of peaceful protest, the right of participation, the right to property, the right to life, the right to equality before law, and the right to an adequate standard of living. The communities must know their rights, including the rights of vulnerable groups such as women and children.

All companies have human rights responsibilities and should be aware of inherent risks of being complacent in actions governments take claiming they

do so to ensure development, but which instead lead to abuses. For example, when the state (or its agents) uses force to secure land for public or private use, it is illegitimate and illogical when measured against international guidelines.

Without observing this, our future food security and survival is doomed.



Florence Bakenya, 50, is a single mother of 4 children. Her eldest son fishes on Lake Victoria and the family produces banana, cassava, potato, jackfruit, lemons, chickens and pigs. They also burn charcoal on their 3 acres of common land. The plantation now surrounds much of Florence's house and she worries that her land will be taken from her. Without it she has no means to provide for her family and no security for her future.



Lighting candles in Vienna to mark the 26th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster

Your voice against nuclear power

New European Citizens Initiative aims to tackle nuclear

This year marked the 26th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. For many people the consequences of Chernobyl are still a reality, and nuclear power remains more than ever a threat to people and planet. But, resistance against nuclear power continues to grow across Europe, while genuine solutions, such as renewables and energy efficiency, gain ever more prominence.

The European anti-nuclear movement is uniting itself to push the European Commission to deliver solutions to the energy crisis through renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency. Friends of the Earth Austria/ GLOBAL 2000, along with international partner organisations, launched the European Citizens' Initiative "My voice against nuclear power".

European Citizens' Initiatives are being submitted to the European Commission to raise debates and suggest the initiation of legislative

processes and thus directly influence European policy. The initiative demands the shutdown of high risk nuclear reactors with, concrete plans by 2015 outlining the power phase-out of all nuclear power plants in Europe, cost transparency in the energy sector, a reduction on energy consumption by 20% by 2020 and increased funding of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

Unfortunately, our initiative was initially rejected, but we are confident further steps and negotiation with the European Commission will ensure the successful regis-

The majority of people in almost all European countries were opposed to nuclear power before Fukushima, but now they're saying they've had enough.

tration. Following approval from the European Commission organisers have 12 months to collect one million signatures in countries all over the European Union. Citizens can submit declarations of support for the ECI on paper or online at www.my-voice.eu. Friends of the Earth are inviting all members of civil society, enterprises and parties to support "My voice against nuclear power".

In anticipation of the launch we conducted interviews with **Reinhard Uhrig**, an anti-nuclear campaigner for Friends of the Earth Austria and part of the initiative 'My Voice Against Nuclear' and **Pavlo Khazan**, campaign director for climate change and energy at Friends of the Earth Ukraine. Both talk about mobilisations against nuclear power in Europe, hopes for a future beyond the nuclear age, and what we can learn from the past. Here are excerpts from the interviews:

PK – Pavlo Khazan, campaign director for climate change and energy at Friends of the Earth Ukraine

RU – Reinhard Uhrig, anti-nuclear campaigner for Friends of the Earth Austria

Thank you for your time Reinhard and Pavlo. So, why is Chernobyl still important?

PK: Chernobyl was the worst nuclear accident ever seen. It is not just an historical event from a moment in time 26 years ago, it is still having a massive impact in the Ukraine today, and the number of people who get sick and die because of the radiation from Chernobyl is still rising. Only 26 years later do we start to realise the true impact of a nuclear accident.

This is a pivotal moment in the future of nuclear power – as the current generation of nuclear plants near the end of their lives, we have the opportunity to reassess the human price we are ready to pay for electricity produced in this way. Serious nuclear accidents took place before Chernobyl, they happened last year in Fukushima. Nuclear power is a terrible mistake.

RU: Austria had a massive share of the Chernobyl fallout and ranks ninth in terms of total fallout. 83 % of Austria's surface area was contaminated, 13% to very high levels, second in proportion only to Belarus. 26 years on, Chernobyl still haunts us – last year we randomly tested Austrian wild boar for radioactive contamination and found them to be way above European and national limits.

Reinhard, why a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) now, and why is it significant?

RU: Following the Fukushima disaster in Japan, European citizens have shown increasingly strong opposition to nuclear power. The majority of people in almost all European countries were opposed to nuclear power



Dropping a banner on a disused nuclear power station at the Tomorrow festival, Austria

before Fukushima, but now they're saying they've had enough. We don't need it and can do without it – with renewable energy sources and by being more efficient with our energy. This is an opportunity for European citizens to have their voice heard.

Pavlo, what are the sentiments towards nuclear power in Ukraine? Has it changed over the last 26 years?

PK: Chernobyl brought into our lives new terminology like 'liquidators' and 'children of Chernobyl'. But, the Ukrainian Government is still developing nuclear power in Ukraine. They don't want to understand that nuclear energy is the most expensive way of producing energy, and when something goes wrong we put our environment at risk and pay with our lives and the lives of our children. We do not have to rely on this high risk technology when safe, clean and sus-

We do not have to rely on this high risk technology when safe, clean and sustainable alternatives exist

tainable alternatives exist.

The history of the green movement in Ukraine began with Chernobyl, but now we can see the decrease of social involvement and public participation in different sectors, also in the environmental sector. This is connected with the decrease in democratic processes in Ukrainian society – we're returning to Soviet style management in the government.

Pavlo, do you have any message for national and European decision-makers in Europe?

PK: We believe that the world should be nuclear-free. We would like to urge all countries to respect their citizen's right to live in a healthy and safe environment. They must listen to opinions and voices of the society and start investing in renewables and energy efficiency.

Reinhard - What can people look forward to from the ECI, and how can they get involved?

RU: This is a chance to join forces, show that there are solutions to nuclear power and the energy crisis, and put an end to the nuclear age. Sign up at www.my-voice.eu to receive all the updates on the campaign.

Groups' news

FoE Netherlands

Air pollution campaign launched in the Netherlands

In February, members of the Milieudefensie's traffic campaign participated in a course on community organising, which equipped them with the tools necessary to mobilise a critical mass of concerned citizens around environmental issues, with a particular focus on air pollution.

Milieudefensie will organise meetings with people who are concerned about air pollution, and inspire people to take leadership and action. The focus will be on the major cities in the Netherlands, in order to build strong teams of volunteers who will influence the policies of their local government.

Air pollution is still a major problem in the Netherlands, and by working at the grassroots, Milieudefensie hope to achieve real change through awareness-raising among citizens and in engaging people to build a strong movement for cleaner air!

Seventy thousand voices tell Shell to clean up its mess in Nigeria

Chief Executive of Shell, Peter Voser, was presented with 70,000 signatures protesting against the oil giant's practices in the Niger Delta, at its annual general meeting this month. The signatures collected by Friends of the Earth, SumofUs and Amnesty International sent a clear message that Shell must take responsibility and start cleaning up its mess in the highly-polluted area of Nigeria.

Friends of the Earth Netherlands/ Milieudefensie campaigners stood outside the meeting in the Hague and offered Shell shareholders the opportunity to taste a sip of contaminated water



A critical mass for cleaner air.

from the Niger Delta. The water which contains hydrocarbons such as benzene and hazardous chemicals like barium, is the only 'drinking' water which many residents of the Niger Delta have access to.

Over the past decades Shell has let tens of millions of litres of oil stream into the Niger Delta by refusing to properly maintain its pipeline network. The company also continues to violate the Nigerian ban on gas flaring.

A United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) report about oil pollution in Ogoniland, in the Niger Delta, launched in August 2011 called for a \$1 billion starter

fund for clean-up in the region. A comprehensive plan from Shell to take responsibility for its practises still hasn't emerged. The UN report criticised the company stating that the maintenance of the Shell infrastructure "has been and remains inadequate".

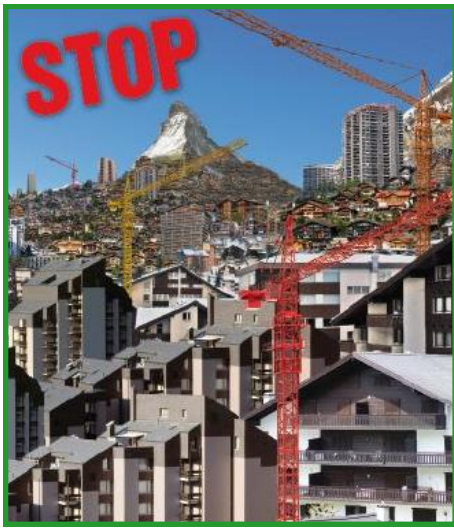
FoE Switzerland

Victories for sustainable land use in Switzerland

In March, Pro Natura / Friends of the Earth Switzerland won two campaign successes. against urban sprawl and for sustainable land use. The Parliament has introduced a law that will regulate building and development in Switzerland. In March, the people



Highlighting Shell's practices in Nigeria at their AGM outside The Hague



Pro natura stand against unsustainable development for tourism

of Switzerland passed a nationwide referendum to prevent more than 20% of homes being second residences in communities of Swiss territory. This is a clear signal that people want to stop the destruction of nature for tourism.

Pro natura is campaigning for more balanced land use in Switzerland, and a stop to the loss of agriculture and natural land with more environmentally-friendly housing and a sustainable consumption of soil resources.

More information:
bertrand.sansonnens@pronatura.ch

Swiss retail giant to preserve biodiversity and climate with peat ban

Peat bogs constitute precious areas of biodiversity and preserve climate by keeping large quantities of carbon that are released when these wetlands get destroyed. These wetlands are threatened both in Europe and in tropical countries. While Switzerland banned the extraction of peat in the country 25 years ago, it continues to import peat, from the Baltic countries, as a substrate for the gardening industry. Every year 150,000 tons of peat are imported, resulting in a release of no less than 280,000 tons of CO2 equivalents and the irreversible destruction of millennial

ecosystems.

Pro Natura/FoE Switzerland is calling on the government to phase out the use of peat within the next 10 years and is encouraging people to stop buying peat products for their gardens and to instead use recycled forestry and agricultural waste. A recent success is campaigners winning the commitment of Coop, one of the largest retailers in the country, to stop selling peat products from next year.

More information:
bertrand.sansonnens@pronatura.ch

FoE Germany Remembering Fukushima

Campaigners at BUND remembered the Fukushima disaster one year on by organising a tour of Germany with visiting speakers from Japan.

Akiko Yoshida from Friends of the Earth Japan and Koike Koich a dairy farmer from Fukushima Prefecture spoke at protests and participated in panel discussions on a global end to nuclear energy and about the situation in Japan and of Germany's role in bringing about justice following the nuclear disaster. BUND collected 10,000 paper cranes from

supporters all over Germany as a sign of solidarity, and to mark the anniversary of the Fukushima disaster. BUND Chairman Hubert Weiger presented the cranes to Friends of the Earth Japan at a Fukushima memorial rally held on March 11th.

miko.omietanski@bund.net

EU climate action credibility at stake

Friends of the Earth Germany and partner organisations staged protests calling on Chancellor Angela Merkel to support at least 30% cuts in Europe's emissions by 2020.

The coalition will organise a range of activities throughout Germany to remind Chancellor Merkel and other members of her government that stepping up to 30% cuts at EU level is vital to achieving the German 40% national target by 2020. First positive impacts of this campaign can already be felt and Ms Merkel recently stated that she wants to see further EU talks about the ambition level of emission reduction targets.

Europe's Environment Ministers met in March but failed to agree on more ambitious climate targets for 2020, 2030, and 2050. It was the second time that Poland vetoed higher targets.



Solidarity cranes collected at the BUND office to mark the anniversary of Fukushima



Calling for 30% emissions cuts by 2020

The European Commissioner for climate action, Connie Hedegaard, asked Heads of State to take up the issue of emissions reductions but so far climate is missing from the agenda of their next meeting in June.

Germany, together with the UK and France, have since requested more discussions about the topic at the next EU Summit in June. Domestic emission reductions by 30% up to 2020 are a first important step towards 40% by 2020. This is the minimum scale of cuts needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and give development space to the poorest in the South.

FoE Spain *Unfinished sympathy with the Indignados*

On May 15 last year, in a direct response to the social, economical and environmental crises, thousands of people peacefully flooded the streets of the main cities of Spain to voice their displeasure. They were called by the international press "Indignados" [in-dig-nah'-dos]. Inspired the Occupy movement, They convened assemblies in different *barrios* of Madrid, and in other cities across Spain.



'For the sake of my 12 grandchildren' The Indignados rally throughout Spain



Lynx cub on the Czech border photo: Bernard Landgraf

Friends of the Earth Spain/ Amigos de la Tierra support the indignados. Since its inception, the movement has helped to increase the political and critical awareness of issues around active citizenship. People have come out in support of a better society, to demand that solutions are not cuts in basic rights, or stealing resources from other countries. An end to business as usual. The genuine solution is to deliver change where people are located at the heart of policy and where there is equitable distribution of natural resources. We hope to see even more people taking to the streets next year to become part of the change we want to see.

FoE Czech Republic *Victory for Czech conservation project*

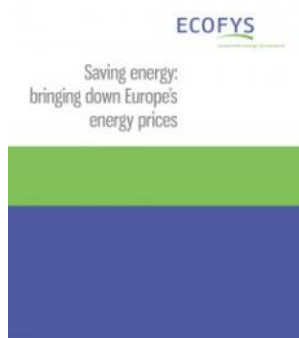
A project by Friends of the Earth Czech Republic/Hnutí DUHA Olomouc to support the return of large carnivores in the Beskydy Mountains, West Carpathians, won a worldwide conservation competition, thanks to strong public support. Friends of the Earth Czech Republic will now receive financial support from European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA) for its work to protect endangered bears, wolves and lynx.

The project will focus on large carnivore conservation, cross border monitoring, education and conservation of wildlife corridors in the West Carpathians. It will continue the successful wolf patrols that protect rare carnivores from poachers and monitor wolves and lynx on both sides of the Czech-Slovak border.

FoE EWNI *UK faces annual bill of £1.8 billion without bees*

It would cost the UK £1.8 billion every year to hand-pollinate crops without bees – 20% more than previously thought – according to new research launched by Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland as it unveiled a new campaign to save the bee.

The group created a temporary 150 square metre wildflower meadow in the shadow of the National Theatre, London, to highlight the need for more bee-friendly habitats – with the flowers used to create the spectacle given away to passers-by to encourage gardening that will help bees to thrive. Friends of the Earth is urging British Prime Minister, David Cameron, to save these important pollinators and save the nation billions by committing to a British bee action plan.



Energy Efficiency Saving energy: bringing down Europe's energy prices

Europe could benefit from over €200 billion net savings per year through energy efficiency measures, according to this research commissioned by Friends of the Earth Europe and Climate Action Network Europe. The research – from Ecofys – concludes that for every Euro saved through reduced energy use, businesses and consumers save an additional Euro as energy efficiency measures drive down energy prices.



Annual review of 2011

Friends of the Earth Europe celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2011. Throughout our 25th anniversary year we continued to work on the world's most pressing environmental challenges which threaten global peace, equity and social justice. This review contains highlights and successes from our campaigns in Brussels, and key successes from our 30 member groups across Europe. You will also find financial information, capacity building projects across the network, publications, and our aims for the year ahead.

Video news

Energy Savings man is back!

Friends of the Earth Europe along with Climate Action Network Europe launched a mini action film this month that calls on European Citizens to be 'energy heroes' and take action for a strong EU Energy Efficiency Directive.

With certain member states blocking effective action on energy efficiency during the ongoing negotiations on the European Union's draft Energy Efficiency Directive, Energy Savings Man is called on to challenge the representatives who are blocking a strong energy efficiency directive in the European parliament.

Watch the film and take action for a strong energy efficiency directive: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJyZ4_Vjbyw



FoEE actions

European day of action against dirty oil

On 5th May Young Friends of the Earth groups and Push Europe activists from across Europe told governments and the oil industry to 'Stop pushing tar sands on Europe', as part of an international day of action against tar sands – the dirtiest form of unconventional oil.

Actions were organised ahead of the European Commission's delayed decision on whether to adopt measures to assign higher carbon emission values to tar sands in its Fuel Quality Directive.

EU climate action credibility at stake

Friends of the Earth Germany and partner organisations staged protests calling on Chancellor Angela Merkel to support at least 30% cuts in Europe's emissions by 2020.

The coalition are organising a range of activities throughout Germany to remind Chancellor Merkel and other members of her government that stepping up to 30% cuts at EU level is vital to achieving the German 40% national target by 2020.

Seventy thousand voices tell Shell to clean up its mess in Nigeria

Friends of the Earth Netherlands campaigners stood outside Shell's AGM in the Hague and offered Shell shareholders the opportunity to taste a sip of contaminated water from the Niger Delta. The water which contains hydrocarbons such as benzene and hazardous chemicals like barium, is the only 'drinking' water which many residents of the Niger Delta have access to.

Chief Executive of Shell, Peter Voser, was presented with 70,000 signatures protesting against the oil giant's practices in the Niger Delta. The signatures collected by Friends of the Earth Netherlands, SumofUs and Amnesty International sent a clear message that Shell must take responsibility and start cleaning up its mess in the highly-polluted area of Nigeria.

Leave all fossil fuels in the ground - European day of action against tar sands in Denmark

Telling Merkel to get hands on with climate. Calling for ambitious emissions cuts in Europe



*Front cover: a newly cleared site in Uganda. This public land has been grabbed for palm oil by plantation owner, BIDCO (page 10).
Back cover: Young Friends of the Earth at the UN intersessional in Bonn.*

Friends of the Earth Europe gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from all its donors. Detailed information about Friends of the Earth Europe's funding can be found at: <http://www.foeeurope.org/about>

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