Dear Partners, Future Partners and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to update you on the most recent activities of Climate Strategies.

Firstly – we would like to congratulate Heleen de Coninck of Radboud University on her election as Chair of the Board and welcome Charlotte Streck of Climate Focus as a new Board member.

Secondly – we would like to draw your attention to the outcomes of the first Global Climate Policy Conference which we organised together with CDKN in early May 2014. The conference looked into how research can help unblock a climate deal. We will discuss this issue at a side event at Bonn on 12 June 2014 – we hope to see you there and look forward to a good discussion.

Thirdly – as always we have the pleasure of inviting you to review our ongoing projects. Out of the wide range we would highlight two: on 2030 EU climate policy – this project is focusing on solidarity, energy security, reforming the EU ETS, governance and future of energy intensives; and on consumption-based accounting for carbon – this multi-year EU-funded project could have great implications for international climate negotiations. Please see the articles below in this newsletter for more details.

Fourthly – if you feel inspired by our work, we invite you to contribute to our ongoing and future projects. Our primary objective is to carry out multi-funder policy-relevant climate and energy projects with contributions from governments, companies and philanthropic foundations. This – along with our multinational research teams, our track record and our reputation – is a guarantee of the independence of our work.

Meet us in person or online on Twitter, LinkedIn or Climate Strategies blog.

With best regards,
Andrzej Blachowicz
Managing Director
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OUR BLOG: Read about the 20th anniversary of the UNFCCC, and the implications of going beyond the 2 degree warming ceiling. climatestrategies.wordpress.com
The expectations for Paris in 2015 are already rising. But there is a danger that it will disappoint, like many “big” COPs before it, unless there is some very hard thinking now about a very difficult subject. What does “applicable to all Parties”, one of the key phrases in the Durban text, actually mean? Outside the negotiating room, there are many hints that China and others acknowledge that Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and the black and white classifications of Convention and Protocol are no longer the ultimate test, and that there could be gradations of differentiation for Parties. But the outcome must be fair.

So, what new scheme of graduated contributions or targets, ignoring for the moment the form they take or the legal force behind them, would have a chance of being regarded as fair by a critical mass of Parties? Curiously, the same debate is about to happen again in the EU, as the distribution of responsibilities between Member States for achieving Europe’s new emissions targets, for 2030 and perhaps beyond, comes into view. Forget the differences in the mechanisms and the power of the central authority to impose: the key issue is the same. What tests and analyses should be used to feed, though not determine (this is politics), a debate on the fairness of a distribution of emissions reduction over a period when the relative economic strength of countries is changing?

The best service the research and analytical community can provide to help the negotiators through these debates is to unpack the various notions of fairness in this context, test the data and arguments behind them, and offer a wide variety of worked-through examples, possibilities, and signposts. At Climate Strategies we will be promoting solid, credible analysis of the distributive principles that could plausibly be used and their pros and cons. That debate is beginning in Europe now, before the final agreement on the numbers to distribute. And at the UN, however difficult the issue is, it may rob Paris of an outcome unless we start to confront it now.

Henry Derwent, Chief Executive, Climate Strategies