

Gabriel: Germany remains a pioneer of climate protection

Climate package ensures greater energy efficiency - also in existing buildings

Today the German Cabinet adopted a comprehensive package of measures on climate protection which underlines Germany's pioneering role in this field. "No other country will go to the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali with such an ambitious and concrete programme," said Federal Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel. "We are massively expanding renewable energies in the electricity, fuels and heat sectors. We are promoting energy efficiency and raising the energy standards for residential buildings by 30%. These standards will also apply to existing buildings." In 2008 the German government will make a total of €3.3 billion available for climate protection measures - an increase of 200% compared to 2005.

"This package makes Germany fit for the future," said Gabriel. "We are focusing on renewable energies and energy efficiency. These are export technologies which enable us to create jobs in Germany. Moreover, we are securing our future: an economy based on efficiency and renewables is less vulnerable in the event of the oil price rising above 100 dollars per barrel."

"In addition, Germany is the only country in the world which in the framework of international climate protection negotiations will provide additional funding for technology transfer and adaptation to the impacts of climate change in developing countries. This funding will come from the revenues from emissions trading and amount to 120 million euro per year."

The package consists of 14 acts and ordinances and seven further measures which for technical reasons can only be formally adopted next May. This will bring Germany very close to its target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 40% by the year 2020 compared to the baseline year 1990. Independent studies calculate that a 36% reduction will be achieved.

Federal Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel: "I am convinced that today's decisions will also be seen internationally as a strong signal for greater climate protection. At the Climate Change Conference Germany will be able to credibly advocate resolute action in industrialised, developing and newly industrialising countries. For our package shows that commitment to climate protection is feasible without imposing an excessive burden on the economy and consumers."

Skilled trades will benefit hugely from the expansion of the support programme for building modernisation. The amendment to the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) and the new Renewable Energies Heat Act will provide additional impetus to a sector which already employs more than 235,000 people. Consumers will benefit in particular - for we will help them to save energy. In light of the rising prices for electricity, gas and oil, the necessary investments will quickly pay off."

Further information:

- [Background paper](#): The German Government's Integrated Energy and Climate Programme

- [Report](#) on implementation of the key elements of an integrated energy and climate programme adopted in the closed meeting of the Cabinet on 23/24 August 2007 in Meseberg

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