

Mr. Tusk, Ms. Merkel:

Take responsibility for Europe – more climate protection now!

Today Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk will be honored in Berlin for his political engagement for Europe. German Chancellor Merkel will deliver the formal address congratulating her Polish guest.

- ▶ **So why is Greenpeace demonstrating here today?** Because Polish opposition is keeping the subject of climate protection off the European Union's agenda: Poland was the only one of the 27 EU member states to veto a proposal to elevate the EU's climate protection goals. And no wonder, since Poland generates more than 90 percent of its electricity from coal-fired power plants. But the EU's climate goal – 20 percent less CO₂ emissions by 2020 (compared to 1990) is already completely obsolete: the EU has already today achieved 17 percent – above all because the economic crisis has caused a drastic reduction in emissions but also because of the enormous success of renewable energy.
- ▶ **The UN Global Climate Council is demanding that:** by 2020 industrial states like the EU countries must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 25 to 40 percent compared to 1990. If not, then climate change threatens to get totally out of control in this century. The EU must therefore set itself the goal of emitting at least 30 percent less CO₂. But Poland is dead set against it.
- ▶ **The German Chancellor bears a special responsibility here.** Germany has close ties to Poland. Germany has implemented a radical change in its energy policy and has exited from nuclear power. Germany has proved that it works: 20 percent of our electricity is now being generated by renewable energy and over 380,000 jobs have been created in the renewable energy industry; many times more than in the nuclear and coal industries combined.
- ▶ **For this reason the Chancellor must win over Poland for more climate protection in Europe.** Poland's obsolete industrial plants are not the only place with huge potential for energy efficiency. By taking efficiency measures and expanding its use of renewable energy Poland could drastically reduce its CO₂ emissions and create thousands of jobs.

Germany and the EU must give Poland the help it needs to do this and Poland must abandon its obstructive stance. At their summit meeting in June, the EU heads of state can then adopt a resolution setting a higher climate goal of 30 percent.

More information at www.greenpeace.de

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