

## Dear Readers,

The end of 2011 saw a number of interesting developments. The climate conference in Durban outlined a roadmap for all countries to commit to a global climate deal with binding greenhouse gas targets starting in 2020. However, crucial differences on various aspects of the pact, including between Washington and Brussels, still remain. The recent inclusion of aviation emissions from domestic as well as foreign airlines in the European Union Emissions Trading System has also caused a dispute across the Atlantic. It is yet another prominent example of the need for an improved transatlantic dialogue on the future of climate governance. Europe and the United States should work towards a climate framework that is capable of integrating different perspectives on how to reduce emissions most effectively.

Once more, this issue of CONNECTED showcases the variety of transatlantic leadership on climate and energy. The International Carbon Action Partnership (ICAP) brings together representatives from different levels of political organization, including British Columbia, California, the EU and Germany. It offers its members a forum to share experiences and knowledge on how to design and implement greenhouse gas markets. Another important initiative is the Clean Energy Ministerial which has developed into an innovative network that brings together leading representatives of governments, academia, and international organizations. The Ministerial's Solar and Wind Working Group is currently producing a prototype Global Solar and Wind Atlas that will offer an important support tool for the future expansion of renewable energies.

The need to connect leaders from both sides of the Atlantic while accepting different speeds of technical innovation and policy implementation will likely continue to dominate climate and energy relations between Europe and the United States in 2012. This edition's "Face to Face" interview features Stefan Mair, Executive Board member of the German Federation of Industries, and Kyle Gracey, Board Director of SustainUS: the U.S. Youth Organization for Sustainable Development. Despite their differing provenance, both identify education on climate and energy issues as a promising transatlantic project. In our op-ed, Hermann E. Ott, Member of the German Par-

liament and the Green party's Climate Policy Spokesman, outlines the strategy of a "climate policy of different speeds." This approach recognizes that eventually all countries must join a global climate protection architecture - but not necessarily at the same time.

This newsletter again describes the efforts of leaders with strong ambitions, such as the state of Vermont which announced its goal of a 90 percent share of renewable energies in 2050. Meanwhile, new numbers for German energy consumption once again show how a long-term policy framework can guide the expansion of renewable energies. Given these promising areas for transatlantic cooperation, we believe that there is reason for careful optimism in 2012. We wish our readers a happy and successful New Year, in which we hope you will stay CONNECTED!

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