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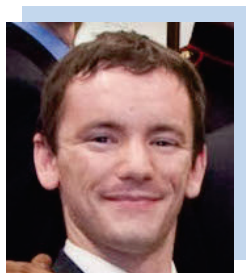
## FACE TO FACE

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### A transatlantic conversation with Kyle Gracey (SustainUS) and Stefan Mair (BDI)

**CONNECTED:** Kyle, Stefan, how do you think the Durban climate summit will help build a more sustainable world?

**Kyle Gracey:** The Durban climate negotiations showed that, even in a very difficult international process, one which essentially demands global consensus to get anything done, nations still agreed to cooperate in limiting humanity's damage to the planet. The Durban agreements provide tools and timelines to build more sustainable action with. The questions now are: How effective will these tools be? How much money will governments devote, how much clean energy will they create, etc., and will we meet or beat our deadlines - especially to avoid crossing expensive climate tipping points we can't get back from?



*„The Durban agreements provide tools and timelines to build more sustainable action*

*Kyle Gracey*

**Stefan Mair:** The Durban package will hopefully lead to a new agreement that will merge the current two-track negotiating process into one, and will end the exemption from binding emissions reductions currently enjoyed by developing countries - particularly by major emitters such as China - as enshrined in the Kyoto Protocol. For this reason alone I think the agreements are significant. The Technology Mechanism and the Green Climate Fund will start operating next year as a result of the agreement, and the discussion amongst parties will now shift to bring about

technological changes and to finding sources of financing. The BDI also thinks that questions relating to monitoring, reporting and verification absolutely need to be further developed during 2012 and eventually to be resolved.

**CONNECTED:** *So both of you are fairly optimistic regarding the Durban outcomes. If you review current climate and energy initiatives, what is the most encouraging approach you see on either side of the Atlantic?*

**Kyle Gracey:** On my side of the Atlantic it's a combination of California's climate law and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) greenhouse gas regulations. Both are small now, but what California does, America follows, and the EPA regulations will increasingly incentivize clean energy and efficiency innovations. In Europe, I'm excited about the European Institute of Innovation & Technology's Climate Knowledge & Innovation Community, particularly because of how they're engaging young entrepreneurs. Those, plus the general increase in climate change research spending around the world - it's not enough money for the size of the problem, but it's improving.

**Stefan Mair:** On the US side - despite the present inertia, or should I say paralysis, of the Federal level - a lot of things are happening in some of the states, and topics like energy efficiency improvements and promotion of renewables are gaining momentum. The EU played an active role before and during the Durban Conference, and I believe that it will keep up the pressure on the issue and pursue its efforts to secure a legal framework for international climate action which should be up and running by 2020. German industries advocate for a clear and credible roadmap to 2015, which this time will engage all countries according to their different capabilities (which surely have increased considerably since 1997 for quite a lot of countries). In our view, progress needs to be made concerning market-based mechanisms, and we do hope that consolidation of the EU ETS and activities in Australia and elsewhere will eventually lead to a global carbon price.

**CONNECTED:** *There seems to be a need for new alliances and approaches in international environmental policy. Imagine you are asked to partner with Stefan Mair what activities come to your mind?*