

Press Release

Copenhagen, December 2009



Parade of Sailboats for a binding treaty on climate change!

Climate activists from all over Germany enter the port of Copenhagen

Copenhagen, 11 December 2009. Young climate activists on five traditional sailboats called for a strong, fair and binding post-2012 treaty on climate change during a parade outside the port of Copenhagen. They emphasized urgency of a much more ambitious international policy on climate change. The activists have sailed carbon-neutrally to the UNFCCC from Flensburg and Greifswald in Germany. They officially entered the port of Copenhagen, where they will be a part of the international climate movement and participate in peaceful actions and demonstrations.

“To prevent a catastrophic climate change, Germany and the other industrialized countries must agree to reduce their domestic carbon emissions at least by 40 percent of the 1990 amount by 2020.” Additionally, the rich countries have to subsidise poorer countries efforts of adapting to climate change. Germany has to agree on payments of 7 billion Euro per year. However, especially during the last days of debate, Germany has been on the verge of becoming one of the foot-draggers of the conference. “It is a scandal that our government now wants to spend funds on environmental programs that had already been promised in the budget of developmental programs“, says Johannes Krause of the Climate Pirates.

The Climate Pirates, a group of young determined environmental activists from all over Germany, have voyaged to Copenhagen on the sailboats Lovis and Petrine. There, they will participate in actions around the UNFCCC such as the Human Flood for Climate Justice and also protest against the planned building of the coal-fired power plant by the Danish company DONG energy in Lubmin, Germany. They will be present with their message both inside and outside the conference centre and participate in the big demonstrations. “We are fighting for our future and will only accept a strong and fair treaty! As young people, we see it as our responsibility to shake up politicians, but also to make our own contribution to a climate friendly society”, adds Climate Pirate Vera Neumann. With about 100 young activists on board, the ships are going to be lying at the Havnegarde in Copenhagen from December 9 until December 19.

COPSAIL is an initiative of the Flensburg based Paz Verde. It is a group of 50 students of energy and environmental management at FH Flensburg. They sailed to Copenhagen on the traditional boats Hansine, Zuversicht and Carola. “If our grandchildren still want to live peacefully on this planet tomorrow, we have to fight as hard as we can to reduce CO2 to 350ppm.“ says Justus Riedlinger of Paz Verde Flensburg. COPSAIL’s patron is Prof. Dr. Olav Hohmeyer, member of the IPCC and experts commission on the environment.

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