

15th International Annual Conference and General Assembly of the Climate Alliance, 9 to 11 May 2007 in Zurich

Thursday, 10th May, 11.00-12.30



CLIMATE ALLIANCE
KLIMA-BÜNDNIS
ALIANZA DEL CLIMA e.V.

Climate Protection and Adaptation – the AMICA Project

The world's climate system has such long response times that experts now agree that climate change can no longer be halted completely. Recent experiences with climatic extremes are a clear signal of the severe impacts of climate change, making it only too apparent that there is a substantial need for mitigation and adaptation measures. AMICA is an integrated climate policy approach which combines necessary measures to adapt to the changes already occurring while promoting environmental protection by working to halt further climate change.

A first outcome of the project is the AMICA Adaptation Tool, consisting of a matrix of adaptation measures and a list of evaluated practice examples. The matrix is a tool to explore the various possibilities to adapt to climate variability and climate change at a local as well as provincial level. Current AMICA work focuses on areas such as Spatial Planning, Energy and Construction, that is those sectors where most "common ground" between adaptation and mitigation policies is expected. For example, decentralized energy supply based on renewable energies is more adapted to climate extremes as well as black-outs rather than big centralised coal-burning power plants and at the same time to contribute to mitigation of climate change. Passive houses contribute to energy savings and are more adapted to heat waves. Ecologically adapted silviculture near river sources can help stabilize the local and regional water budget and can be combined with climate protection measures such as using more intensive biomass and the closing of regional economic cycles.

The workshop will present further aspects for the integration of both action fields, with focus on economic aspects and practical examples. Leading questions are: What are the main economic constraints for integration of Adaptation and Mitigation? What has already been done for combining adaptation and mitigation measures?

Presentations:

"Synergisms between Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: the Economic Perspective"

*Prof. Gunther Stephan, University of Berne,
Faculty of Economics, CH*

"Integration of adaptation and mitigation policies in London"

*Andy Deacon, Strategy Manager for
Climate Change, Air Quality and Energy,
Greater London Authority, UK*

Facilitator: *Dr. Andreas Kress, Climate Alliance, European Secretariat*

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