

# EDITORIAL

*Every man in the street today is aware of two issues:*

- the global issue of climate change: *Outgoing UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer has stated that he does not expect that we will see a breakthrough in the next few years. He believes that industrialised countries will continue to be unwilling to commit to a 2 degree limit on warming. European governments and the European Commission hold differing opinions regarding the number of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> to be cut between now and 2020.*

*We hope the new Executive Secretary, Christiana Figueres, a familiar face in the negotiations, will be able to lead the process to a prompter solution. Of her abilities, Yvo de Boer has stated that “She is so good, she doesn’t need my counsel”.*

*Increasingly, we hear the opinion that a new climate agreement could be developed without the US, if necessary.*

- the Caribbean oil spill: *This issue is widely covered in the electronic media and has engendered an emotional response to stop all ocean drilling, which does environmental issues a disservice. Political and economic realities and practicality must also be recognised, if environmental arguments are to be seen as serious. It is essential to allow what is both safe and technically possible. In this way, we can address the most serious need – strict controls on profit-oriented “experiments” that are potentially harmful. Our position should be to allow drilling – but not everywhere.*

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*The European Council on Environmental Law (CEDE) has passed a resolution calling for a right to proper sanitation, to be presented to the UN Human Rights Council. If current global trends continue, we will fall short by 1 billion people of achieving the Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people who do not have access to proper sanitation and safe water.*

*It the meantime, United Nations University notes an interesting fact – that more people in India have access to mobile telephones than toilets.*

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*Our publisher has reminded us that EPL is now more than 40 years old. We would love to hear or read your comments on this astonishing fact.*

21 June 2010

*- Wolfgang R. S. -*