

EDITORIAL

For quite a while, issues of climate change have dominated the media at every level, and they seem likely to continue this dominance. For this reason, we have chosen not to fill EPL with details of climate politics, which can easily be found in the local news. It is important, however, not to allow ourselves to omit these important events:

- One such event is the decision of Yvo de Boer to resign from his position as Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. We understand his choice, but are particularly sorry to lose him at this critical time.*
- We have heard with great interest of the extent of the financial support given by some oil and coal corporate interests to promote the expression of doubts regarding the reality of climate change.*
- Another negative voice being heard on this topic comes from agriculturalists. In Latin America, cattle ranchers are opposing studies of the climate effects caused by gases emitted from the digestive tracts of their herds, while FAO suggests that cattle breeding may need to be restricted for a variety of other reasons. On that same continent, however, coffee growers are noting that if warming of local climates continues, it may prevent future production.*
- Also connected to climate, the UN notes that deforestation is declining, but that the rates continue to be alarming. The UN Weather Agency has stated that the past decade is the warmest on record.*
- The negative voices may be the reason that the Secretary-General has urged governments around the world to reject the last-ditch attempts of climate-skeptics.*
- Taking all this into account, there is no question by any state that the task of addressing these critical issues can only be undertaken by the United Nations – nobody else could have achieved a globally binding agreements.*

*

*

*

We cannot miss this opportunity to congratulate Professor Tommy Koh (Ambassador-at-Large of the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and last Chair of the UN Conferences for negotiation of the Law of the Sea Convention), who has been chosen as one of the “most trustworthy” persons in his country.

21 April 2010

- Wolfgang R. Steury -