

consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/146360.pdf.

– Position on Post-2015 Development Agenda:

Partnership

The European Commission (EC) has formally set out its views on “global efforts that will be needed to eradicate poverty and boost sustainable development” in a Communication entitled “Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015” that was jointly prepared by Federica Mogherini, High Representative and Vice-President; Neven Mimica, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development; and Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. EU Press Release. 5 February 2015. Online at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4141_en.htm. [TRY]

– Wildlife Trade: Trophy Control

The EC has adopted new measures addressing the import of hunting trophies, designed to ensure that any such imports are legal and sustainable. The new measure focuses on iconic species (African lion, polar bear, African elephant, Southern white rhinoceros, hippopotamus and argali sheep). From now on,

permits to import such trophies will only be delivered once the EU is convinced that the import meets sustainable hunting criteria. EU Press Release. 5 February 2015. Online at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4142_en.htm. [TRY]

Peru: UN Experts Warn of Environmental Human Rights at Risk

Two United Nations human rights experts have issued a statement opposing the proposed re-licensing of further oil extraction from heavily polluted land in the Loreto region of Peru, which they claim would perpetuate and exacerbate serious violations of human rights of indigenous peoples, including their right to health, food and water. The proposed re-licensing is based on a signed agreement between the State-owned oil company and indigenous communities to clean up land and water contaminated by 44 years of oil spills. Health statistics indicate that 98 percent of children in the affected communities surpass the admissible levels of toxic metals in their blood. UN Press Release. 17 December 2014. Online at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49607#.VOOVwi4yTlg>. [TRY]

[Except where otherwise attributed, all References by NE]



SELECTED DOCUMENTS

US President Barack Obama's 2015 State of the Union Address

– Excerpt –

In the Asia Pacific, we are modernizing alliances while making sure that other nations play by the rules – in how they trade, how they resolve maritime disputes, and how they participate in meeting common international challenges like non-proliferation and disaster relief. And no challenge – no challenge – poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change.

Last year, 2014, was the planet's warmest year on record. Now, one year doesn't make a trend, but this does – 14 of the 15 warmest years on record have all fallen in the first 15 years of this century.

I've heard some folks try to dodge the evidence by saying they're not scientists; that we don't have enough information to act. Well, I'm not a scientist, either, but you know what? I know a lot of really good scientists at NASA,¹ and NOAA,² and at our major universities. The best scientists in the world are all telling us that our activities are changing the climate, and if we do not act forcefully, we'll continue to see rising oceans; longer, hotter heat waves; dangerous droughts and floods;

and massive disruptions that can trigger greater migration, conflict, and hunger around the globe. The Pentagon says that climate change poses immediate risks to our national security. We should act like it.

That's why, over the past six years we've done more than ever before to combat climate change, from the way we produce energy, to the way we use it. That's why we've set aside more public lands and waters than any administration in history. And that's why I will not let this Congress endanger the health of our children by turning back the clock on our efforts. I am determined to make sure American leadership drives international action. In Beijing, we made an historic announcement – the United States will double the pace at which we cut carbon pollution, and China committed, for the first time, to limiting their emissions. And because the world's two largest economies came together, other nations are now stepping up, and offering hope that, this year, the world will finally reach an agreement to protect the one planet we've got.



L–R: Julian Castro, US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; John Kerry, US Secretary of State; Jack Lew, US Treasury Secretary; and Earnest Moniz, US Energy Secretary, applaud as President Barack Obama enters the House Chamber prior to delivering the annual State of the Union address in Washington, D.C.

Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

Looking to the future instead of the past; making sure we match our power with diplomacy, and use force wisely; building coalitions to meet new challenges and opportunities; leading – always – with the example of our values: that's what makes us exceptional; that's what keeps us strong. And that's why we must keep striving to hold ourselves to the highest of standards – our own.



1 [US National Aeronautics and Space Administration.]

2 [US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.]

Errata

We regret that, in the footnote to his article at p.347 in EPL 44(4), we misstated Stephen Stec's position and affiliation. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Central European University and Associate Scholar at Leiden University's Institute of East European Law and Russian Studies. We thank him for his generosity in the face of this error.