

En route vers COP 15 – Copenhague, décembre 2009 –

Naissance d'une nouvelle politique chinoise en matière de changement climatique

La Conférence de Copenhague qui se tiendra en décembre prochain aura pour mission majeure de faire rentrer la Chine dans un accord contre le réchauffement global qui succédera en 2012 au Protocole de Kyoto.

Première pollueuse mondiale depuis deux ans, la Chine sait qu'elle doit arriver à Copenhague avec une offre acceptable sous peine de se retrouver marginalisée et même sanctionnée par la communauté Internationale.

Précisément, notre étude « *En route vers Copenhague – COP 15 – Naissance d'une nouvelle politique chinoise en matière de changement climatique* » qui sort le 10 juillet prochain, vous révélera les bases de l'offre préparée par Pékin.

Si nous avons décidé de mener cette étude, c'est parce que nous ne parvenons nulle part à lire ces intentions chinoises, ni à trouver des analyses sur les chances de réussite de sa nouvelle stratégie. Nous vous proposons au travers de cette étude de décrypter la position chinoise qui tente un passage vers un développement durable et à faible intensité en carbone.



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Birth of a new Climate Change Policy in China* »
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en matière de changement climatique

Une collaboration

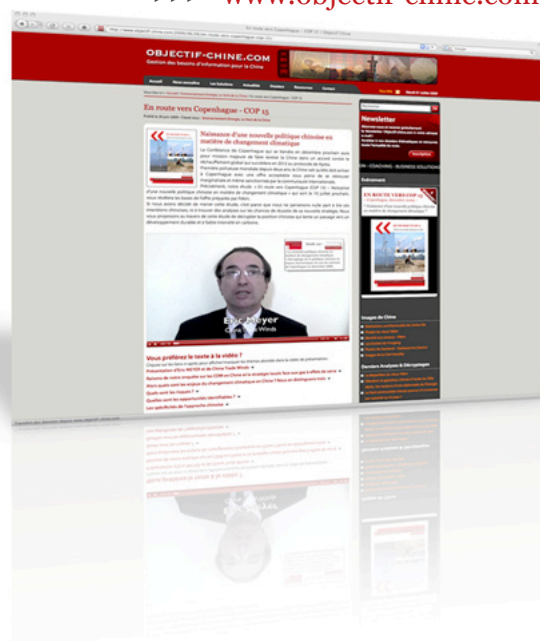


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CHAPTER 1. MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS: CHINA AND THE WORLD BIRTH OF A 'CLIMATE DIPLOMACY'

Strategy and arguments

Coming to the 'strategy', at first, it doesn't seem possible to link Chinese official statements to: A) a real and assumed position of China or B) a strategic move. In addition, conflicting statements from different officials could reveal inside factional struggles on the issue, as well as tactics aimed at "buying time" for the decision-makers. A highly symbolic sign of this confused approach has come from statements from two high-profile Chinese officials from the same agency, who spoke (...) in contradictory ways. Li Gao (Director of NDRC's CC department) (...) adopting a hard-line stance, says the West was responsible for the CO₂ emitted for the production of Chinese goods it imports. When further analyzed, (this argument) hardly holds: (...) exports have been China's main source of economic growth for decades and at the end of the day, someone has to bear the responsibility of GHGs emissions for (the imported) goods: if not China, then who? (...) Having the (western) consumer bear the price of 'going green' would be the equivalent of imposing a tax on Chinese products, something that all Chinese officials strongly reject. (...) China's exports would be free of any 'low-carbon' restrictive policy, while goods produced in developed countries would bear a double burden: responsibility for the GHGs emitted during the production process and responsibility for Chinese goods sent abroad. In addition to being unbalanced, this approach would be extremely dangerous climate-wise i.e. such a great carbon leakage would turn China into a pollution islet (...). In contrast, , Xie Zhenhua (NDRC's Vice-Minister) offered a far more conciliatory attitude, saying that China wants to be involved in the fight against climate change and is ready to move towards emissions caps, but by 2050, citing the real difficulty being finding a satisfactory framework for the intermediary steps.

[...]

CHAPTER 3. CHINA'S NATIONAL STRATEGY

MASSIVE INVESTMENTS TO FULFILL CHINA'S ASPIRATIONS FOR A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY

So – Copenhagen aside – China appears determined to take strong action on environmental issues nationally, following its own path. However, its actions will be significant enough to impress developed countries, even if every action won't have a strong impact on climate change. Certainly Beijing's position during COP15 negotiations will rely heavily on its 'achievements' at home and its promises of future success. Looking beyond the December Copenhagen Conference, Vice-Minister of Finance Zhang Shaochun unveiled another objective: to "take hold of the commanding ground of the new emerging industries" by investing massively in climate change and in new energy related technologies.

[...]

CHAPTER 4. EMISSION TRADING IN CHINA

UNLEASHING THE CDM POTENTIAL, REALIZING OTHER MECHANISMS SUCH AS CAP-AND-TRADE

'Green' proposals vs. 'realpolitik'

An article on the China Academy of Sciences (CAS) website presented a November 2008 report (...) proposing the construction of a domestic carbon trading system in China based on the carbon balance between provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. (...) This proposal, if followed by concrete actions, would be an important first step toward a system similar to the one operating in Europe with national allocation plans. However, no additional information has been released regarding implementation of this proposal, and the source of the report does not give grounds for optimism: it was released by the Association for Environment Culture Advancement of China, whose president is Mr Pan Yue, Vice-Minister of Environmental Protection. Pan Yue, recruited by Hu Jintao when the latter took power in 2003, was in recent years China's most prominent and influential voice in the pro-environmental campaign. However, last year he lost his position as the ministry spokesperson and has since "disappeared" from the front lines of the political scene. It is rumored that recently he was accused of corruption. However, the true reason of his removal may have been his being too vocal about the environment, at a time where the country was planning to spend billions of yuan on infrastructure projects as part of its stimulus plan. This outspokenness, in addition to the sensitivity of post-Copenhagen negotiations, could well have resulted in Pan Yue's replacement by Wu Xiaoping, also a Vice-Minister but a much less controversial figure.

[...]