

Austria, Belgium and Ireland running away from their responsibilities at COP20 in Lima.

Today was the opening of the UN Climate negotiations held this year in Lima, where all countries in the world are meeting for two weeks to find a series of agreements to tackle climate change. This conference is happening one year ahead of the Paris conference where an ambitious, legally-binding and fair agreement will have to be found if we want to keep the global climate temperature below 2C. Many issues still need to be discussed, many interests are at stake and more importantly the future of human race existence is under heavy threat.

But while many countries have pledged financial contributions to help others with less resources to mitigate their emissions, to adapt to climate change and to face climate disasters, three European Union countries have remained silent.

Austria, Belgium and Ireland haven't pledge anything yet for the Green Climate Fund and this is shameful!

"The countries who have actually pledged money to the Green Climate Fund are helping to reach an agreement, although it's clear that the sums are far from enough and wrongfully taken from existing commitments of aid budgets. We need to see all rich countries live up to their responsibility, but especially those who haven't pledged at all", says Petter Lydén, Policy Adviser at Diakonia, member of Aprodev.

As a result the Climate Action Network, a big network of environmental and social NGOs in the world, delivered its first Fossil of the Day to these three European free-riders as well as to Australia. Indeed, after a string of encouraging initial contributions to the Green Climate Fund, it seems a few countries believe they are off the hook on this one. This translates into several billions of dollars missing in the fund's coffer. This is not acceptable and it is jeopardizing the Paris agreement. To the free-riding ministers: Don't forget to sign your check before you land in Lima.



CAN-International @CANIntl - 4h

First fossil of the day at #COP20 goes to .Australia, Belgium, Austria & Ireland! For holding back on climate finance

Contacts:

Petter Lydén, Policy Adviser at Diakonia Sweden, +51 944 979 508, petter.lyden@diakonia.se
Bruno Nicostrate, Policy Officer at Aprodev, +51 945 193 856, b.nicostrate@aprodev.net