

# EQUILIBRI

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Lo scorso mese la Commissione Europea ha approvato la *Roadmap* che scandirà la strategia climatica dell'Unione Europea all'orizzonte 2050. Il progetto è ambizioso perché prevede che gli Stati membri riducano, entro il 2020, del 25% rispetto ai livelli del 1990, le emissioni di CO<sub>2</sub> attraverso politiche domestiche, migliorando la loro efficienza energetica e stringendo ulteriormente gli obiettivi già enunciati nel pacchetto «energia e clima».

Le tappe e gli obiettivi intermedi fissati dalla *Roadmap* costituiscono la condizione per arrivare, a metà del nostro secolo, a ridurre le emissioni di gas serra dell'Europa-27 dell'80-95% rispetto al 1990.

Il commissario europeo per l'azione per il clima, Connie Hedegaard, ha motivato tale accelerazione con la volontà di evitare che ogni ritardo nell'agire comporti un aumento dei costi delle misure necessarie a raggiungere un'economia a bassa intensità di carbonio.

Ma tra l'enunciazione e l'attuazione delle politiche per raggiungere gli obiettivi auspicati, il rapporto non è immediato e lineare, anche perché le difficoltà – e i costi – sono elevati, e lo scenario in cui tali politiche si collocano e agiscono è a sua volta mutevole.

Se dagli impegni su scala regionale spostiamo lo sguardo a quelli su scala globale, la situazione diventa ancora più complessa.

In attesa del prossimo vertice di Durban a fine anno, l'attenzione è oggi tutta rivolta agli impegni di riduzione delle emissioni su base volontaria presi a Cancún dai paesi sviluppati e dalle aperture mostrate da due paesi energivori come la Cina e l'India.

Resta, infine, l'incognita degli Stati Uniti, la cui impasse politica, dovuta alla forte opposizione interna, irrigidisce le posizioni dei paesi emergenti.

Questi ultimi, infatti, devono tenere assieme sviluppo economico e sostenibilità ambientale, e chiedono chiarezza sulle risorse finanziarie e sulle facilitazioni per accedere alle tecnologie pulite detenute dai paesi più sviluppati.

Come si può vedere in questo numero di «Equilibri», i ricercatori della FEEM hanno presentato alla comunità scientifica e ai decisori istituzionali significativi contributi sulle questioni sollevate negli ultimi vertici sul clima. I lavori coprono sia la valutazione delle diverse politiche su clima e sostenibilità, sia l'analisi delle implicazioni economiche dei diversi scenari di mitigazione e di adattamento.

Certo, la situazione complessiva non lascia molto spazio all'ottimismo. Ma negoziati così complessi, e di così lungo periodo, richiedono tempo e pazienza. È relativamente facile concepire un obiettivo ambizioso, il lavoro più difficile sta però nell'attuarlo.

### DOSSIER: THE PATH TO DURBAN

#### **Cancún Restores Hope and Europe Regains its Role, *Marinella Davide and Chiara Rogate***

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Despite negative expectations, the adoption of the Cancún Agreements represents a small but decisive step forward towards the building of future global action against climate change. Through the implementation of the key commitments of the Copenhagen Accord, the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties paved the way for an agreement in COP 17 in Durban restoring the credibility in the UNFCCC's negotiation process. While Europe's leadership didn't suffer any additional loss, the next months will be crucial for its ability to bridge differences and contrasts between developed and developing countries.

**Keywords:** Cancún, Climate Change, Europe

#### **The Commitments of Cancún, the Impacts on Sustainability, *Elisa Lanzi and Ramiro Parrado***

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Recent developments in international negotiations, particularly given the outcome of the COP 16 in Cancún, have underlined the need to involve developing countries and to act not just at global but also at local level. In this context it is particularly important to consider the effects of climate negotiations not only on economic costs, but also more widely on sustainability, thus considering also social and environmental aspects. Based on the outcomes of the Cancún negotiations, this article proposes an evaluation of different policy scenarios, which take into consideration climate policies as well as ones targeted towards improving adaptive capacity. This is done through the canalization of mitigation policy revenues to sectors such as health, education and research and development. The analysis shows the importance of introducing additional policies to attenuate the costs of climate policy on society. Implementing climate and social policies

together is more likely to lead to a sustainable development and therefore to achieve the participation of developing countries in international climate negotiations.

**Keywords:** Sustainability, Climate Policy, Climate Negotiations

### **Europe's Commitment, Roberta Giaconi interviews Connie Hedegaard**

«People keep on asking me if I am optimistic...». It is Connie Hedegaard speaking, the Commissioner for Climate Action. During the interview she underlines the outcomes of Cancún and the challenges that world climate is still facing due to slow UN processes and many obstacles to be overcome. Moreover, even those who do not believe in climate change must realize that our economy is not sustainable any longer. To preserve the comforts given for granted in Europe, we have to create a low-carbon economy. There is a long journey ahead, but politics is the «art of possible»: it can create a different future step by step. Next step at the UN conference in Durban.

**Keywords:** Cancún, Low-carbon Economy, Durban

### **Congress Slows Down President Obama, Sandro Malavasi**

Budget cuts hit the environment, but the real concern is the Republicans' position toward President Obama's policy, and its effect on the commitments made in Cancún. One must not forget the Republicans' attempts to stop the financing of UNFCCC and IPCC. Luckily, not all the decisions made in Cancún need Congress approval, and after all, in consideration of the forthcoming presidential elections in 2012 the US has only modest, «realistic» expectations.

**Keywords:** Budget, Cancún Commitments

### **The Path to Durban is Uphill, Nicoletta Ferro interviews Li Gao**

FEEM researcher Nicoletta Ferro interviews Mr. Li Gao, Director of the Climate Change Department of China's National Development and Reform Commission. In the interview Mr. Li Gao comments the Mexican summit and the results achieved, while discussing China's strategy for addressing climate change. What emerges from the interview is that the next few years are likely to mark a cross-road in Chinese politics, and that climate change policies will play an important role in China's 12<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan.

**Keywords:** Cancún, China, Climate Change Policies

### **India's Potential, Mira Kamdar**

Against all expectations, the COP 16 meeting in Cancún produced an agreement that has restored hope that the worst of global warming's devastations can be avoided. Jairam Ramesh, India's Minister of Environment and Forests, returned from Mexico to New Delhi where he reached a memorandum of understanding with China for the two countries to collaborate on creating the green technologies which alone can fulfill the promise of economic growth without environmental collapse. It also launched Jairam Ramesh as one of the most effective leaders in a bloc of emerging powers that are no longer content to sit at the margins of the institutions of global order.

**Keywords:** Cancún, India, Leadership, Global Warming

### **Climate Finance, Resources and Tools for Global Policies, Alessandra Gorla**

In Cancún participating Parties agreed on a very stringent climate target, that will require massive investments in low-carbon technologies, mitigation and adaptation. In the Cancún Agreement a fast-start and long term finance target was set, based on the outcome of the Copenhagen Accord

and on the recent recommendations of the High Level Advisory Group on Climate Financing. This article illustrates the state of play in climate finance, providing some critical insights of eminent experts from the business, institutional and scientific community, who gathered in Venice last October to discuss key issues and challenges in climate finance.

**Keywords:** Climate Finance, Carbon Market, Carbon Pricing, Public and Private Finance, Additionality, Official Development Assistance

## INSIDE THE CRISIS

### ***Globalization Changes its Course, Giulio Sapelli***

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A new commodity super-cycle has just started, and it has surprised all the observers. It is driven by a variety of factors, but mainly by agricultural and food products and oil. Globalization changes its course as negative growth and the increase in the cost of money paves the way to protectionisms and interstate conflicts.

**Keywords:** Commodity Super-cycle, Protectionism, Conflict

## NATURE AS A LIMIT

### ***New Solutions for Climate Change, Valentina Bosetti***

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This article is based on the speech delivered by FEEM researcher Valentina Bosetti at the TEDx Lake Como 2010. It explains why the mitigation of greenhouse gases is such a complex issue, and illustrates the role of innovation and technological progress in the fight against climate change, based

on the findings of her research under the ICARUS project (Innovation for Climate change mitigation: a study of energy R&D, its Uncertain effectiveness and Spillovers), supported by the grant awarded to Valentina by the European Research Council.

**Keywords:** Greenhouse Gases, Mitigation, Innovation

### **Sometimes Somebody Tries, *Roberta Giaconi***

Is it possible to have a good life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century without wasting so much? A few people have tried: Colin Beavan in New York, Steven Vromman in Belgium, Paola Maugeri in Italy. They left their car in the garage, they stopped buying food wrapped in plastic or coming from other countries. «If all the people on this planet lived like an average Belgian man we would need two extra planets», Vromman commented. Many people are fascinated by a low impact life, but only very few would be ready to give up the current, comfortable lifestyle...

**Keywords:** Low Impact Life

## **INTERNATIONAL LETTERS**

### **Strolling through Jerusalem with a Distinguished Guide, *Claudia Sonino***

Visiting and getting lost in Jerusalem following the poems of Else Lasker Schüler with the Arabic-Israeli conflict in the background.

**Keywords:** Jerusalem, Else Lasker-Schüler

### **Chinese Shadows, *Jeff W. Clark***

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From his observatory in Hong Kong, the author looks at continental China and discusses its environmental strategy, its regained pride and affirmation of power, and its appeal to Confucius, also around the debate on democracy.

**Keywords:** China, Sustainable Development, Democracy, Confucius

## **GEOPOLITICS FOR ENERGY**

### **Demographic Depression, a Russian Disease, *Francesco Maria Cannatà***

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Birth rate decline, alcoholism and the economic crisis are the main problems afflicting Russia today. From 1989 to 2008, the Russian population dropped from 148 to 141.4 million, and Russia is projected to have a negative birth-death balance of 11 million people within 2025. But the main concern is the high mortality level. Russians live between ten and sixteen years less than European citizens, and the mean life expectancy of men is only 59 years, mainly as a consequence of vodka consumption. An improved health care system, including preventive medicine and the control of alcohol abuse, are necessary conditions for Russia's dreams of modernization.

**Keywords:** Birth Rate Decline, Alcoholism, Population Decline

### **Burma's Zig-Zag Youth, *Giuliano Di Caro***

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Imagine a country where the young generation has finally arisen. In Burma, after the 2007 protests against the regime, the new generation has found the spark and inspiration to define its identity. Several groups are

now using art, communication, music and political activism to claim their right for free speech and political change. No surprise that Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, finally free to walk outside the walls of her own house, has immediately started a dialogue with these young movements, such as Generation Wave, whose members are graffiti writers and hip hop-politically-engaged artists. The new generations might be, on the long run, a crucial gamechanger in the country and an effective raise-awareness weapon against the violence of the military dictatorship.

**Keywords:** Burma, Youth Movements

### **The Violence against Christians in the Middle East, *Daniele Atzori***

The on-going discriminations and violent attacks against Christian communities of the Middle East have led several observers to speak of new religious persecutions. French President Nicolas Sarkozy described them as part of a plan of religious cleansing of the entire region. Since centuries, Middle Eastern Christians have been playing the role of a bridge between Western and Islamic countries. The humanitarian tragedy of Middle Eastern Christians may also have very negative geopolitical consequences in the relationship between civilisations, and in particular between the two shores of the Mediterranean.

**Keywords:** Violence, Christians, Middle East

### **Strategic Earths, *Isabel Archer***

Rare Earths have become essential for our technologies: from low-consumption lamps to new generation electrical engines. But they are not so rare on our planet. Deposits have been identified and are ready to be exploited, not only in the United States, but also in Canada, Australia and Vietnam. The lack of long-term strategies in Western countries has left the monopoly in China's hands. China currently produces up to 97% of the

world's needs. Indignation and panic followed China's announcement that it plans to reduce its rare earths exports by 35% in the first semester of 2011. The West is slowly trying to solve the impasse.

**Keywords:** Rare Earths, China

### **The Power of Maps: Conversation with Raffaele Laudani, Emanuele Frixia**

Born in 2006 based on the initiative of the Bologna International Committee for the Cartography and the Analyses of the Contemporary World, «Mapping the World» is a Cartographic Centre working on the geopolitical transformations of the contemporary world through the most innovative cartography and multimedia technologies. The project has implied an innovative training activity at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of Bologna University. We have asked Raffaele Laudani (the Project Director) to review this important experience after 4 years, and what «Mapping the World» means today in a globalized world.

**Keywords:** Cartography, Geopolitical Transformations, Multimedia Technologies

### **Brazil. Energy is the Ticket for the Future, Riccardo Geftter Wondrich**

The Belo Monte hydroelectric power station on the Xingu River is one of the main projects of Brazil's energy and infrastructure sector, a symbol of the economic development of the Amazon region. While the government considers the Belo Monte Dam a strategic project for national security to be completed at any cost in order to start operations in 2015, environmentalist, religious and native population movements claim that it jeopardizes the fragile social and ecological balance of the area, infringes on the rights of the indigenous peoples and opens the way to a series of other dams and power houses that will gravely impact the Xingu ecosystem.

**Keywords:** Brazil, Energy, Ecosystem, Indigenous People

## ECONOMIC ARITHMETICS

### **Analysis and European Policies of Migration Flows: the Uncertainty Effect, *Michele Moretto and Sergio Vergalli***

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In our article we study how uncertainty affects migration choice and how network is able to mitigate its effects. In particular, we describe a real option model where the migration choice depends on both the wage differential between the host country and the country of origin, and on a network of homogeneous immigrants. By looking at the labour market uncertainty, the optimal migration decision of an individual consists of waiting to migrate in a (coordinated) mass of individuals. By looking at policy uncertainty, we try to explain if it is better for the government to tighten or relax limits for immigrants in order to control migration inflows. Our results show that promoting uncertainty over migration limit may improve the government's control on migration inflows (quotas). In particular, we show that if the government controls the information related to the immigration stock it could delay the mass entry of immigrants, maintaining the required stock in the long run and controlling the flows in the short-run.

**Keywords:** Immigration, Real Option, Network, Uncertainty

## SUSTAINABLE READINGS

### **On the Way to Canossa, *Elena Verdolini***

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After the failure of the Copenhagen Climate Conference in December 2009 the world's policy makers have to identify new policy options to prevent global warming. The expert authors in *Smart Solutions to Climate Change* by Bjørn Llkborg, focus on the likely costs and benefits of a very wide range of policies, including geo-engineering, mitigation of CO<sub>2</sub>, methane and

«black carbon», expanding forest, research and development of low-carbon energy and encouraging green technology transfer. For each policy, the authors outline the costs, benefits and likely outcomes, in chapters accompanied by shorter, critical alternative perspectives. The attractiveness of the policy options described are moreover evaluated and ranked by a panel of economists, including three Nobel laureates.

### ***Climate Knowledge, Stefano Tibaldi***

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When describing his book *A Vast Machine. Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming*, Paul N. Edwards states «This book is a history of how scientists learned to understand the atmosphere, measure it, trace its past, and model its future». While global warming skeptics maintain that our knowledge on climate change is nothing but simulation and model predictions, the author traces the history of meteorology and climatology arguing that over the years the scientific case for global warming is in fact based on a stable and reliable infrastructure of global knowledge.

### ***Paladins or Barbarians?, Laura Pellizzola***

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Over the past decade public attention has increasingly focused on Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs). *Sovereign Wealth Funds: A complete guide to state-owned investment funds* by Alberto Quadrio Curzio and Valeria Miceli is a detailed guide to an extremely broad area of finance which involves many of the world's governments, and affects a wide array of sectors. Anyone wishing to understand this international financial phenomenon will find this book an interesting and comprehensive read.

### ***Between East and West, Gianni Guastella***

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Drawing upon over fifteen years of research, working in Africa and elsewhere, in his book *Renaissances: The One or the Many?*, British anthropologist

Jack Goody examines the European Renaissance in relation to the renaissances that have taken place in other cultural areas, mainly Islam and China, focusing on their influence on Europe.

