



## The Global Warming Policy Foundation

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Chris Huhne MP  
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30 January 2012

Thank you for your reply of 18 January to my letter of 25 November.

The bulk of your letter is a defence of the deeply flawed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, on whose Reports the Government's climate change policy is largely based.

That defence is simply unsustainable.

You admit, for example, that the highly respected InterAcademy Council, drawn from the world's leading academic science societies, published in 2010 a highly critical review of the IPCC, with a number of recommendations for essential reform. You imply that the IPCC has implemented those recommendations: in fact, it has conspicuously failed to do so.

You dismiss, without addressing any of the evidence it contains, the thorough and well-documented study of the IPCC by Professor Ross McKittrick (*What is Wrong with the IPCC? – Proposals for a Radical Reform*, Global Warming Policy Foundation, 2011). In this report he specifically addressed the issue of whether the IPCC has responded adequately to the IAC criticisms, and finds that on a number of crucial issues, such as control of conflicts of interest and taking account of the full range of scientific opinion, it has not gone nearly far enough. So it remains the case that, as presently constituted, the IPCC is not fit for purpose.

Nor, incidentally, do you show the slightest awareness of the serious corruption of the IPCC process thoroughly and devastatingly documented by Donna Laframboise in her recent book *The Delinquent Teenager who was Mistaken for the World's Top Climate Expert*.

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As my colleague, Lord Turnbull, observed in a debate in the House of Lords earlier this month:

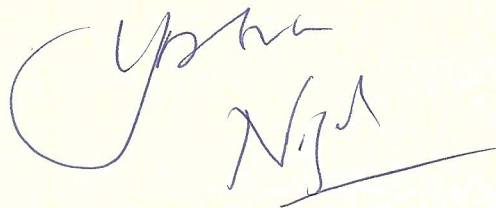
“The IPCC claims that it employs top scientists in the field; that it uses only peer-reviewed material; that its staff are independent and impartial; that its operations are transparent; that its procedures for review are rigorous and free of conflicts of interest; and that its role is to present objective scientific advice to policymakers, not to advocate policy responses. *None of these claims is true.* “

It is worth noting that in his reply to that debate your junior Minister, Lord Marland, acknowledged that “It [the state of the IPCC] is not something we can change unilaterally. It will require international agreement. Some of the points are well known, and quietly we have made our points well known to the IPCC”. He, at least, clearly does not share your complacency about this important matter, and concedes that much more needs to be done. Nor, for that matter, is your complacency shared by the governments of China and India, both of whom are demanding reforms to give the IPCC the credibility it currently lacks.

The other main aim of your letter is to deny that either the UK or the EU is acting alone, rather than as part of a globally binding agreement, in attempting drastically to reduce carbon emissions.

That contention, again, is more than a little surprising. It is not so long ago that the British Government was boasting that, as the only country to have a legally binding Climate Change Act, the UK was giving an example to the world. You seem to base your change of tune on the fact that, at the UN climate change conference in Durban last December, major emitters such as the US, China and India agreed in principle to seek a globally binding agreement in 2015 (to come into force by 2020). An agreement to seek an agreement at some date in the future is not an agreement – as the financial markets are well aware in the context of the current travails of the Eurozone.

But let me close on a measure of genuine agreement. In your very last sentence you state “That’s precisely why we want to move to 30% [reduction in carbon emissions by 2020] with the EU together *so no European country is penalised for acting alone*”. [The italics are mine.] I agree with you that UK unilateralism on this issue is highly damaging to the British economy, to no conceivable purpose. But even if the rest of the EU were to agree to your proposal, Europe is not the world; and (to use your own terms) the entire EU would be penalised were it to act in this way while China and the US, for example, are not. It is precisely to save the UK and the EU from this self-inflicted and senseless damage that the Global Warming Policy Foundation, of which I have the honour to be Chairman, seeks to alert politicians and the public to the perils of the climate change policy you are at present pursuing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Lawson', with a large circular flourish on the left side.

The Rt Hon Lord Lawson of Blaby PC  
Chairman