

PRIME MINISTER ①

What about the
other countries at the conference? Are
they similarly placed? not

CONTROL MEASURES FOR ENERGY RELATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

I attach a minute from Mr Wakeham about the study he hopes to submit to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change by the end of this month. This suggests that the commitment in the Noordwijk Declaration to aim to stabilise the industrialised nation's CO₂ emissions by the year 2000 will not be achieved in the UK without substantial action. I have flagged the graph which shows the report's estimates for the increase in CO₂ emissions according to low and high price assumptions.

The report looks at a number of technical options for reducing CO₂ emissions. It suggests action is needed right across the spectrum of energy suppliers and users; and that no single technology will offer a solution. Enhanced energy efficiency and the use of gas in power generation will be particularly important.

Mr Wakeham plans to come forward with proposals, particularly on energy efficiency, in due course. But at this stage he is seeking your views on how to handle the Report. He proposes to publish it by means of a PQ rather than allowing its conclusions to leak out in a potentially damaging and unstructured way. In particular he wants to stress in publishing the report the need for global action, given that the UK is responsible for only 3% of the world's CO₂ emissions, and that our share will decline proportionately in the future.

Once the Report is submitted to the IPCC it is effectively in the public domain. Mr Wakeham's proposal to take the presentational initiative in publicising the report's conclusions therefore makes sense. But it is still bound to lead to increased pressure for the Government to come forward with a strategy for controlling CO₂ emissions.

Content for the Secretary of State for Energy to publish the report in the way he suggests?

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Caroline Slocock

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Yes not