

Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill

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Make provision for the adoption of a policy of combating climate change in accordance with the principles of contraction and convergence; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Interpretation

In this Act—

“carbon emission rights” means rights to discharge greenhouse gases into the atmosphere;

“contraction and convergence” means — 5

(a) the stabilising of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at a safe and stable level, with planned progress towards that objective by an agreed date, and

(b) the equitable distribution of carbon emission rights among individual states or groups of states, in proportion to their population, with planned progress towards that objective by an agreed date, 10

as agreed in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992 (“UNFCCC”);

“full-term contraction budget for global greenhouse gas emissions” and “contraction budget” mean an arrangement for the progressive reduction of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases to a safe and stable level over a defined period; 15

“greenhouse gases” means —

(a) carbon dioxide, 20

(b) methane,

(c) nitrous oxide,

(d) hydrofluorocarbons,

(e) perfluorocarbons,

(f) sulphur hexafluoride, and 25

(g) any other gas which may be prescribed in regulations made by the Secretary of State;

“safe and stable level” means a maximum concentration of 450 million parts per volume, or such lower level as may be prescribed in regulations made by the Secretary of State.

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2 Duty of Secretary of State

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to pursue a policy of combating global climate change in accordance with the principles of contraction and convergence.

3 Implementation of policy

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In order to further the policy set out in section 2, the Secretary of State shall seek to secure international agreement on—

(a) a safe and stable level of concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere;

(b) a full-term contraction budget for global greenhouse gas emissions;

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(c) the distribution of the contraction budget among individual states or groups of states in the form of carbon emission rights in such a way that distribution in proportion to population is achieved before the end of the period to which the contraction budget applies, whether or not a population base-year has been agreed;

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(d) accelerating the rate of global convergence relative to the rate of global contraction in the contraction budget in its application to different regions of the world, whether developed or not;

(e) the sale and purchase of carbon emission rights, both between and within individual states, in order to promote the development of, and investment in, technology which reduces carbon emissions to a minimum; and

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(f) the revision by the Conferences of Parties and Meetings of Parties to the UNFCCC of any agreed rates of contraction and convergence so as to take account of improvements in the scientific understanding of the dangers of climate change.

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4 Report to Parliament

The Secretary of State shall in the course of each year lay before Parliament a report containing—

(a) an assessment commissioned by him of the current state of global emissions of greenhouse gases;

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(b) a statement on the progress made in the previous year in negotiations towards implementing the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this Act;

(c) his assessment of the efficacy of the instruments of domestic policy which are designed to give effect to the contraction budget; and

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(d) a statement on the progress made in the previous year towards the implementation of the contraction budget.

5 Regulations

(1) Any power of the Secretary of State to make regulations under this Act is exercisable by statutory instrument.

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- (2) Any regulations under this Act shall be laid before Parliament after being made and shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

6 Expenses

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament any expenditure incurred by a Minister of the Crown by virtue of this Act.

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7 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Act 2006.

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To make provision for the adoption of a policy of combating climate change in accordance with the principles of contraction and convergence; and for connected purposes.

Presented by Colin Challen.

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