

Impact of bio-energy production on Indigenous Peoples and alternative approachs for climate change mitigation

By Estebancio Castro Díaz

Seminar: "Impact of wood-based bioenergy on forests, forest dependent people and the climate – A Southern Perspective"

Thursday June 3 2010 European Parliament - Brussels



INTRODUCTION

Indigenous Peoples have expressed their concerned at the international and national level about receiving unjust laws and policies that ignore the fundamental rights to participate and be consulted.

Many of the new policies such as the bio-energy production on the indigenous peoples land may or has already ended with the dispossession of indigenous peoples of their territory, resources and traditional knowledge.



CASES

The cases of Endesa/Enel in Chile, Repsol in Argentina, Pluspetrol in Perú, y Aremco y Dreyfus in Brasil show us how these companies have invaded the territories of Indigenous Peoples and violated their fundamental rights such as the free prior informed consent and the right to express.

Article 32: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the aproval of any project affecting their lands and territories......



CASES

The replacement of forest with plantations in the name of climate change mitigation is hugely detrimental to Indigenous Peoples not only because of the loss of the forest itself, but also because of the impact of pesticides used in monoculture tree plantations on people's health and the biodiversity on which they rely. It is also extraordinarily detrimental to the climate, as evidenced by research from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)'s showing that untouched primary forest stores significantly greater quantities of carbon than either plantations or logged forests.



RECCOMENDATIONS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

- Urge to the States members of the EU to maintain their economic international relationship, their economic political decissions and their international economic cooperation subject to the international human rights and environmental law
- Urge to the States members of the EU to establish a periodical system to review the performance of the companies and their respect to the human and environmental rights
- Urge to the States members to EU to implement the OCDE guidelines for the Multinationals Companies, disseminate the information regarding its existence.



PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH

The EU should implement a precautionary approach in situations where the indigenous peoples human rights have been violated and their free and informed consent prior any activity has not taken into account.

The EU should stop any commercial or investment trade conclussion that is currently in the negotiation process until the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and the social, environmental and cultural assesment have done propperly.



