

**FORMAL FORMATION OF THE COALITION FOR THE ICE,  
THE INTERNATIONAL COURT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
26<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

An evening meeting of the Coalition for the ICE generously hosted by international lawyer Herbert Smith in its central London offices on 26 May 2009 saw the adoption of draft strategy documents devised by Coalition members following the Coalition's April 2009 meeting in the House of Commons' Portcullis House.

Addressed by a panel comprising Stephen Hockman QC, Peter Luff and Philip Riches, the meeting explored an exchange of ideas and advice – with perhaps the most pressing debate focusing on whether the ICE, once established, would most likely prosecute, or resolve disputes.

In the view of Stephen Hockman, it was envisaged that – initially, at least – the ICE would resolve disputes, rather than prosecute.

“Its key role, as I see it, is that it should pronounce in legal terms, declaring relief. Its distinguished panel of respected, senior international jurists will interpret international treaties and the obligations of states.

“Overall, the ICE should exist in order to modify actions, attitudes and approaches that cause eco-damage, imperilling health and livelihoods,” he added.

“If there is to be prosecution, there should be a national/international dividing line in the way the law is invoked.”

Focusing on the imminent actions the Coalition would take, Peter Luff said the Coalition's new status as a limited company would set in train its fundraising activities. “Funds will enable the Coalition to establish a professional organisation to aid the campaign. Annual cost of the organisation may range from say £90,000 to £150,000.”

Philip Riches stressed the role that individuals would play during the forthcoming international campaign. The power of individuals' support should not be underestimated, he said.

Among other topics discussed were:

- location of the ICE, most probably away from the “west”
- recruitment of individuals into groups (specialist, and campaigning)
- recruitment of Board directors
  
- draft of an early day motion (posted perhaps in June-July 2009) in the House of Commons, to energise Members of Parliament

- the need, and opportunity, to organise a half-day seminar perhaps at London's Chatham House, of academics in September or October – before Copenhagen summit in December; the Coalition to have authoritative information to offer appropriate delegates at the summit
- Coalition to follow-up with a larger, more significant/international academic conference post-Copenhagen, say February or March 2010, probably again in London.

The meeting heard from Deborah Heaton-King that 1,000 individuals had expressed interest in the Coalition's Facebook page.

In addition, Herbert Smith's Richard Brophy informed the meeting that 18 law firms in London - known as the The Legal Sector Alliance - have formed an initiative to help staff cut their carbon footprint, signing-up to 6 specific benchmarks.

2 June 2009. Ends.