

THE NEED FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE STANDARDS

Anders Ahnliid

**OECD Global Forum on Trade,
Paris 9 June 2009**

Why a Swedish Climate Standards Project?

- Proliferation of initiatives – 200 governmental and non-governmental climate labeling/declaration schemes
- Rapidly launched and questionable scientific basis
- Most of them run by producers, consumers or NGO's in OECD countries
- Need for balance between standards to mitigate greenhouse gases and avoiding new barriers to trade

Is the interest of developing countries sufficiently taken into account?

Why international/global standards?

- **To eliminate the diversity of climate labelling initiatives and thus avoid barriers to trade**
- **To minimize the burden on exporters facing varying requirements from national schemes**
- **To facilitate rational import regimes**
- **To make climate initiatives more credible for consumers, producers and other stakeholders**
- **To allow for developing country participation**

The Swedish Climate Standards Project

Launched in January 2008 after Bali Trade Ministers Meeting

Executed by:

- **The Swedish National Board of Trade: project co-ordinator and focal point for capacity building and policy development**
- **The Swedish Standards Institute (SIS): co-ordinates capacity building**
- **The Swedish Development Agency (Sida) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs: finance project activities**

Overall objectives

- **Contribute to and promote sustainable development**
- **Encourage global standards as tool for climate mitigation**
- **Strengthen developing countries' participation and voice in standardisation processes**
- **Strike appropriate balance between climate and trade objectives**

Substantive scope of the project

- **ISO 14067-1 Carbon footprint of products – quantification**
- **ISO 14067-2 Carbon footprint of products – communication**
- **EU's Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC**
- **ISO standards on fluid and solid biofuels, including sustainability requirements**
- **Related measures and processes**

Focus – the ISO standard on carbon footprint

Emissions associated with production of goods and services of interest:

- for consumers to reduce their personal carbon footprint;
- for companies to meet the growing demand for less carbon-intensive and more carbon-neutral products;
- for governments, looking for innovative, positive ways to address climate change

Procedural content of the project

- **Increase awareness of trade-related climate obligations and their impact on international trade**
- **Build capacity and support developing countries to be active in the development of international climate-related standards**
- **Enhance capacity in developing countries to take advantage of trade opportunities by implementing climate-related standards**

Activities – some examples

1. **Standardisation pre-seminars for the MENA region aiming at active participation in the ISO work on carbon footprint.**
2. **Five-year-programme on a global basis accompanying the ISO work, including needs assessment, infrastructure establishment, awareness raising, train-the-trainers and best practice conferences.**
3. **“Climate Change and Trade – a Development Perspective”, conference in Stockholm, 23-25 Nov 2009**

If you want to know more

- www.kommers.se
- www.sis.se
- www.sida.se
- www.regeringen.se

The need for truly global standards that...

- ...are non-discriminatory,
- avoid disguised protection from trade,
- are not more burdensome than necessary,
- least trade distortive and
- scientifically based.