

## **A Message from Delhi to Washington (via Stockholm)**

In the last few weeks, EU leaders have intensified calls for *all* countries to sign a single treaty in Copenhagen—codespeak for “no deal without the US”.

The Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen took things one step further, suggesting in a speech on October 24 that if a comprehensive climate deal remained elusive, world leaders could instead settle for “binding political commitments” in order to ensure participation from every country. His remarks were widely interpreted as leaving room for a treaty based on national pledges, rather than international targets.

So far, the EU has refrained from officially endorsing Rasmussen’s position. But officials have ramped up rhetoric that assigns a greater share of blame for climate change—and the burden of responding—to developing countries.

### **Sweden’s Prime Minister comes to India bearing the EU flag**

On November 5 and November 6, the Swedish Prime Minister, Fredrik Reinfeldt, representing the EU presidency, lands in Delhi for meetings with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and others. His visit follows a tour to Washington where he met with President Obama.

Between Washington and Delhi, Reinfeldt authored an op-ed published in the Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter, entitled, “The climate negotiations in Copenhagen must not fail.”

Here are excerpts from the article:

“Tomorrow I am travelling on to New Delhi for an EU-India summit. My message to Prime Minister Singh is essentially the same as to President Obama: we must focus on the climate, and that requires immediate action.”

“We know that it is important for India to be able to continue along the path towards greater prosperity for its citizens. However, this development cannot be accompanied by parallel increases in carbon dioxide emissions.”

“We are aware that India’s per capita emissions are relatively low – and that it is therefore argued that there should be scope for an increase in emissions. But with the knowledge we have today, it is not reasonable to presume that certain countries have a right to increased emissions. In addition, India has major potential when it comes to increasing energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources.”

## A few pointers for Reinfeldt

Equitywatch would like to remind Mr Reinfeldt of some key facts.

First, India's per capita emissions are not "relatively low"; they are **extremely low**: one quarter of Sweden's, one seventh of the UK's, and, of course, one twentieth of the US.

### Per Capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions<sup>1</sup>

India	UK	Sweden
1.3 t per person per year	9.5 t per person per year	5.6 t per person per year

Second, historical responsibility cannot be willed away by rhetorical flourishes. Industrialised countries are almost entirely responsible for today's climate predicament; the right to emit additional emissions to the atmosphere lies exclusively with developing countries.

### Historical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 1900-2006<sup>2</sup>

India	UK	Sweden
30 Gt	56 Gt	4.2 Gt

### Historical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 1900-2006 divided by 2006 population<sup>3</sup>

India	UK	Sweden
26 t per person	940 t per person	460 t per person

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<sup>1</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel use; Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, US, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

Third, while energy efficiency opportunities certainly exist in India, greater potential exists in the US.

- A 2004 study found that electricity consumption in the US could be realistically decreased by 21.5% through efficiency measures.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2006, US electricity consumption was estimated at 3,892 billion kWh.<sup>5</sup>
- 21.5% of total US electricity consumption is 836 billion kWh.
- In 2006, India's electricity consumption was estimated at 517 billion kWh.<sup>6</sup>

Which means: **US potential when it comes to increasing energy efficiency of electricity use is more than 1.5 times India's total electricity use.**

Similarly, a study by McKinsey found that the **US can reduce its emissions by 1.1 Gt through energy efficiency, an amount equal to more than half of India's total emissions.**<sup>7</sup>

Perhaps Mr Reinfeldt needs to return to Washington.

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<sup>4</sup> Nadel, Stephen et al. *The Technical, Economic and Achievable Potential for Energy-Efficiency in the U.S. – A Meta-Analysis of Recent Studies*. From: Proceedings of the 2004 ACEEE Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings. 2004.

<sup>5</sup> Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Fact Book*, 2009. Available at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html>

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> McKinsey Global Energy and Materials, *Unlocking Energy Efficiency in the U.S.* 2009. Available at: [http://www.mckinsey.com/client-service/electric-power-natural-gas/downloads/US\\_energy\\_efficiency\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://www.mckinsey.com/client-service/electric-power-natural-gas/downloads/US_energy_efficiency_full_report.pdf)