

# Stop deep-sea drilling!

Greenpeace activists stage protest against dangerous deep-sea oil drilling

Since 20 April 2010, millions of litres of oil have been gushing every day from a BP well in the Gulf of Mexico. So far, all attempts to put an end to this deadly spill have been unsuccessful. Even if BP eventually succeeds in containing the oil, many millions of litres have already escaped, unchecked, causing irreparable damage to plant, animal and human life. Lasting damage has already affected an area that is now larger than Ireland.



## EU meets oil companies

European commissioners for energy Günther Oettinger and for environment Janez Potočnik are today meeting 18 CEOs from the world's largest oil companies to discuss the future of deep-sea drilling in Europe. Commissioner Oettinger's last week

said he would support a moratorium on deep-sea drilling in European waters until investigations into the causes of BP's spill in the Gulf of Mexico have been completed and lessons learnt. Greenpeace calls for an end to deep-sea drilling to stop a disaster like the one in the Gulf of Mexico from taking place in European waters.

## Oil companies take no notice of risks

While BP has unsuccessfully been trying to cap the leak for over 12 weeks, plans to expand deep-sea oil drilling operations are still in place. All large oil companies are determined to continue operations, as confirmed by Christof Rühl, chief economist at BP. Shell CEO, Peter Voser, has even announced plans to expand deep-sea oil drilling.

## A very real risk in Europe

The North Sea is another region in which drilling operations are being carried out without sufficient technical and financial safeguards. Even though no serious incident has been reported in recent years, an accident similar to the BP spill could occur at any time. Even without an accident, Greenpeace documented oil slicks during flights over the North Sea in May 2010.



## An opportunity to forge new paths

Government and industry must now press ahead to radically reduce oil consumption, and to prepare for a complete phase-out of oil and other fossil fuels, as well as hazardous nuclear energy.

Transport is the dominant source of oil demand, accounting for almost 2/3 of EU consumption. The oil industry is taking increasingly big risks to extract the world's last remaining reserves. It is time to develop comprehensive EU policies to bring the transport sector onto a sustainable pathway, including stringent efficiency standards for all types of vehicles, to reduce our dependency on oil. It is time to invest in clean, renewable energy sources and to end our dependency on unscrupulous corporations who are incompetent when faced with a crisis.

## Greenpeace demands:

- *Ban all deep-sea drilling in EU waters and prevent imports of high-risk unconventional oil sources;*
- *Adopt comprehensive EU policies to reduce European oil demand, including robust efficiency standards for cars, vans and lorries;*
- *Develop a vision for a fully renewable energy system by 2050 and put a robust price on carbon by committing unconditionally to a cut in greenhouse gas emissions for the EU of at least 30% by 2020.*

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