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Introduction

*Michael Rodi and Michael A. Mehling**

Over a decade after the Kyoto Protocol was negotiated, the divisions which have featured in climate negotiations from the outset are still hampering progress towards a concerted response to global climate change. Attention commonly centres on the rift between industrialised nations and the developing world, where normative considerations of equity and historical responsibility have been balanced against the sheer imperative of greenhouse gas constraints; the very regions experiencing the highest emissions growth are not only limited in their capacity to implement mitigation strategies, they also stand to bear the worst impacts of atmospheric warming. Adaptation, therefore, features more prominently on their agenda than emissions abatement. Meanwhile, wealthier nations have shown reluctance to enter ambitious reduction commitments as long as their southern counterparts do not engage in comparable efforts. Here, environmental concerns may serve to mask more immediate motives, such as fears that greenhouse gas controls will reduce the ability of domestic industries to compete in the global marketplace.

Yet divisions have not only been apparent between the global North and South; occasionally, they are equally pronounced within a region or a group of countries. Perhaps most visible was the decision of the United States to reject the Kyoto Protocol, which marked the beginning of an enduring divide across the Atlantic. But dismissing the largest global economy as a climate laggard would fail to acknowledge many dynamic initiatives at the state and municipal level, illustrating how differences can even emerge within a single country. In an enlarged Europe of 27 Member States, it is becoming increasingly difficult to articulate a strong consensus on climate change; and the Group of 77, formerly representing a majority of developing countries, is also straining to accommodate an ever greater diversity of interests and political priorities.

All these factors are recurrent themes in the contributions to this timely collection of essays, which comprise the proceedings of the 4th Summer Academy 'Energy and the Environment' convened at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, in July 2007. An initiative launched by the University of Greifswald, Germany, this week-long event brought together researchers and practitioners from a range of disciplines and geographic backgrounds to engage in an interdisciplinary debate on

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enhanced participation and integration in a future climate regime. If nations across the globe are to reconcile their differences and forge a shared vision of international climate cooperation, they will need to account for the diverse international, regional and national circumstances highlighted in this volume. In eight thoughtful analyses, its authors map out the current state of negotiations and highlight political realities guiding key actors in the diplomatic arena. More importantly, however, they dissect the sophisticated dynamics which have given rise to the current divide in global climate policy.

Without the efforts of a number of committed individuals, this volume would never have been finalised. Dorothee Andrzejewski, Marcel Dalibor, Richard Paton, Franziska Peetsch and Thomas Ruppel all provided invaluable assistance in the editorial process; Jörg Scharrer was instrumental in coordinating the interaction between authors, editors and the publisher. We are greatly indebted to each of them for their help. And finally, our gratitude is owed to the authors, whose time and efforts went into making this volume a reality.

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