

Catherine travels to Angola

At the end of November Catherine Bearder MEP travelled to Angola to attend a Joint Parliamentary Assembly between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP).

With the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen the following week, protecting the environment and preventing climate change were top of the agenda.

As a life-long environmental campaigner Catherine took the lead for the party on finding a common approach to Copenhagen for the EU and the ACP countries. The effects of climate change are often felt more heavily in developing countries than they are in developed countries across Europe and North America. Given that these countries are the worst polluters, Catherine argued the EU must assist developing countries to build green economies so they can do so without threatening their overall economic development.

Catherine told the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, "At Copenhagen it is vital we achieve targets to significantly reduce



■ Catherine is working hard for real action to tackle climate change

global carbon emissions. Failure to do so would be catastrophic for all of us, wherever across the world we hail from. Developing countries are having to meet both their obligations to

grow their economies to lift their people out of poverty, and to ensure they avoid the quick-fix industrialisation that would prove so harmful to our planet."