

Germany accepts climate protection deal amid worldwide protests



Berlin, September 21 (RHC)-- The German government reached a consensus Friday on a new climate protection package, which includes a domestic carbon price and the possibility of more stringent measures in future, a source close to the talks said.

According to reports from Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and her Social Democrat partners agreed a carbon price for energy used in buildings and transport in line with the existing European Union emissions trading scheme, in which certificates traded at 26.30/tonne on Friday CFI2Zc1.

That price, lower than the 40 euro price many climate economists had been advocating, means pressure on German companies to cut emissions will be lower than many expected. But the source added that the scheme will contain provisions allowing the government to take corrective measures if targets on emissions cuts risk being missed.

Another source said the package would have a volume of 50 billion euros (\$55.2 billion) through to 2023 and would be financed without new debt.

The deal, billed as one setting the direction of Europe's largest economy over the coming decades, was being finalised as protesters massed at thousands of locations around the world to demand swifter action to curb climate change. Several thousand protesters, inspired by Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future movement, rallied at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate as the negotiations were underway.

The outcome appears to be a compromise between the conservatives' desire for an emissions trading scheme that supports innovation in Germany's corporations and the SPD's desire for a carbon tax which would support those hardest hit by the costs of the transition away from carbon.

The plan also includes measures to help households pay for the transition away from the use of polluting heating oil that remains common in much of western Germany.

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