



Simpol Strategic Partnership Programme

Working with your organisation to solve problems globally and locally

What is the Simultaneous Policy (Simpol) and how does it relate to your organisation?

Simpol is an international campaign that aims to address global problems such as climate change, weapons proliferation, unfair trade and unsustainability, and to do so in a way that complements and enhances existing NGO campaigns on these and other global issues.

The focus of Simpol is to overcome governments' and politicians' fears that the *unilateral* implementation of stringent environmental controls and other necessary reforms would see capital, investment and jobs moving elsewhere, thus causing job losses, uncompetitiveness and a loss of votes. While NGO campaigning has achieved many notable successes, it is the fear of uncompetitiveness that so often results in governments responding inadequately to NGO demands.

The fear of competitive disadvantage is becoming recognised as a key barrier to solving global warming and many other global problems. The Stern report warned governments to act urgently to curb carbon emissions, but the *Financial Times* (6th Dec. 06) noted that "...governments remain reluctant to address this threat because any country acting alone to curb its greenhouse gas emissions, without similar commitments by other governments, risks damaging the competitiveness of its industries." David Miliband, former UK environment minister, acknowledged this, noting that: "There is a collective action problem internationally."

What is Simpol?

Simpol is a range of far-reaching global policy measures; measures so profound that they need to be implemented by all or sufficient nations *simultaneously*, only once all or sufficient governments have signed up to doing so. Thus, governments can support Simpol in principle but stop short of implementing it until sufficient other nations have signed on too. In this way, international consensus can be built around a transformative agenda for change *without* any nation risking its international competitiveness, so building towards a date when implementation can take place.

Moreover, Simpol deals with *multiple* global issues simultaneously, so allowing nations that might lose on one issue to gain on another. In contrast to today's single-issue approach which is almost bound to fail, combining multiple issues would make substantive cooperation in every nation's interests. In this way, Simpol opens the way both to building sufficient international support for profound systemic change.

Crucially, Simpol uniquely provides citizens in all democratic countries with a powerful new way to use their votes to compel politicians of all parties to support its agenda. By pledging to vote for ANY politician or party, within reason, that has signed on to the campaign, citizens have the potential to compel even uncooperative governments, such as the U.S. administration, to support it. A number of UK MPs have already pledged to implement Simpol alongside other governments. They come from all the main political parties. For a full list of UK MPs that have signed the Simpol Pledge and for more details on how Simpol's voting strategy works, please visit <http://uk.simpol.org>

What can we do for each other?

We'd like to propose that our two organisations enter into a strategic partnership for mutual benefit. We would ask you to consider asking your supporters to sign on to Simpol, so adding to the electoral pressure on politicians for a truly global solution. Likewise, we would ask all our supporters to consider joining your campaign. By combining your existing approach with Simpol, you would continue to push governments to implement reforms they can feasibly implement on their own. But by supporting Simpol, you would additionally be acting to overcome the competitiveness objection, so opening the way to the implementation of urgent, far-reaching global reforms. This would allow you to cover both national and global aspects, so assuring your supporters that their campaigning efforts won't risk falling at the competitiveness hurdle. Our partnership should thus benefit both parties *and* benefit the planet.

What practical, co-operative actions could we take?

For example, we could both:-

- ❑ advise our respective memberships of the other's campaign or organisation and encourage them to join and become involved. Simpol-UK's members have diverse activist concerns and many would be keen to learn about, and become involved in, your campaigns.
- ❑ list one another's organisations or campaigns on our respective websites or in each other's literature. We would propose listing you as a "Simpol Partner Organisation".
- ❑ include news items or articles about our respective campaigns or other initiatives in each other's newsletters.
- ❑ invite one another's representatives to speak at our respective conferences, meetings, etc.
- ❑ engage in joint campaigning, when appropriate.

The above list is not suggested as an "all or nothing" proposal but more as a menu from which items can be selected or new items added which are suitable to both parties. In addition, our members would welcome your expert opinion on what appropriate and far-reaching policy measures could be included in Simpol.

We look forward to discussing the above proposals with you in greater detail. If you would like to take this further, please contact us.

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