



Press Release

13th November 2005
For immediate use

PM must address energy security in Lord Mayor's speech

STEPHEN TWIGG, Director of the Foreign Policy Centre today said:

"The Prime Minister, Tony Blair must address one of the most pressing concerns in foreign policy – Britain's energy security when he makes his annual speech to the Lord Mayor's banquet tomorrow.

"At a time of high oil prices, with massive demand on our dwindling supplies from rising powers such as India and China, the world's energy security is one of the most pressing challenges for collective foreign policy. Britain is increasingly reliant on oil and gas resources which are primarily sourced from areas of the world which are politically unstable and from regimes which do not respect human rights or international law.

"The Corporation of London has taken a lead in addressing energy efficiency through the use of 'energy wardens' to reduce the demand on our vulnerable energy supplies.

"The Prime Minister must secure Britain's energy security by taking three concrete steps:

- Firstly, he must announce a review of Britain's energy needs, and provide extra funding for research into renewable technologies – through R&D and sponsorship for alternative fuel sources, such as using biomass fuel to power government vehicles with a clear analysis of the benefits and drawbacks of new-build nuclear;
- Secondly, the UK must work in partnership with its fellow EU Member States to develop a common energy policy which would allow greater self-sufficiency and the use of alternative energy technologies such as through subsidising biomass fuel agriculture via a reformed CAP;
- Thirdly, the PM should announce funding in the next local government finance settlement in December for energy wardens in all local authorities to ensure energy efficiency in homes and businesses across the UK."

ENDS

Editor's Notes

1. The Prime Minister will give his annual speech to the Lord Mayor's Banquet on Monday 14th November 2005 at the Guildhall, London.
2. The Foreign Policy Centre has recently launched a major new programme on Energy Security. It calls for a rapid shift to renewable energy sources in the UK from the perspectives of national security, economic prosperity and protection of the global environment. For more details of the Energy Security programme, please visit <http://fpc.org.uk/topics/energy/>. To download a pdf version of the programme's initial

**For more information or a copy of the report, please contact Alex Bigham on
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The Foreign Policy Centre

Progressive Thinking for a Global Age



publication, *Britain's Energy Future: Securing the 'Home Front'* please visit <http://fpc.org.uk/publications/172>.

3. The FPC will host a debate entitled 'Britain's Nuclear Future' on Tuesday 15 November from 17.00 to 18.00 in Committee Room 16, House of Commons. Please email fiona.grant@fpc.org.uk for invitations.

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