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RESEARCH NOTE 51

## The Cost of Copenhagen

From 7 December to 18 December 15,000 delegates will descend on Copenhagen to work towards negotiating a treaty to succeed Kyoto and reduce emissions. However, even before the conference has begun, there have been questions over whether a new deal will be struck. US President Barack Obama and Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen have conceded that the conference is unlikely to produce a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, and are beginning to make arrangements for a delay until the next conference, in Mexico.<sup>1</sup> British officials also do not expect a new deal, with binding restrictions, to be agreed this year.<sup>2</sup>

In light of that and the large number of other international conferences that have been held this year, taxpayers around the world – who will be supporting the conference and the delegations being sent there – might question whether the conference will constitute good value for money. This research note provides the first estimate of the total cost of the conference.

### Key Findings

- A conservative estimate of the total cost of Copenhagen is £130 million (\$215 million, €143 million).
- This estimate is based on the Danish government budget and the costs to participating governments of sending 15,000 delegates – including flights, accommodation, food, conferencing facilities and salaries paid to delegates while they are at the conference. It is a conservative estimate as it leaves out costs such as the need for supporting work by staff in the home countries.

Item	Cost, £	Cost, \$	Cost, €
Danish government budget	37,449,240	62,000,000	41,215,967
Flights	6,375,000	10,554,286	7,016,212
Hotels	19,965,00	33,053,541	21,973,124
Food (£20 per person per day)	3,300,000	5,463,395	3,631,921
Delegate conference facilities	8,080,792	13,378,350	8,893,575
Salaries paid to delegates	54,534,750	90,286,332	60,019,976
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,704,781</b>	<b>214,735,905</b>	<b>142,750,774</b>

<sup>1</sup> McDonald, F. 'Denmark concedes successor to Kyoto accord improbable', *The Irish Times*, 17 November 2009

<sup>2</sup> Webster, B. 'All hope is lost for Copenhagen climate treaty, British officials say', *The Times*, 6 November 2009



Matthew Sinclair, Research Director at the TaxPayers' Alliance, said:

*"The politicians and bureaucrats going to Copenhagen seem to think that it's unlikely that they'll reach a deal and they know that even if they can get something signed, an increasingly sceptical public aren't going to accept ever more expensive climate change policies. This means that a huge amount of money is going to be spent on the summit, and thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted to get there, just to give the delegates a good photo opportunity. Politicians need to stop this expensive jamboree and instead focus domestically on bringing down the ruinous cost to ordinary families of green taxes and regulations."*

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## Methodology

The sources used to produce a conservative estimate of the cost of Copenhagen were obtained from the UNFCCC and Copenhagen conference (COP15) website.

**Danish government budget:** When a government offers to host a UNFCCC conference they are allocated a budget to provide delegates with a conference centre, equipment, security and utilities. Although the Danish government budget is not yet finalised, the most recent official estimate suggests that the Danish government have been allocated \$62,000,000 for COP activities; it is possible that the final amount will exceed this figure.<sup>3</sup> That estimated budget is equivalent to £37 (€41) million based on a £0.60402:\$1 exchange rate.

With an estimated 15,000 delegates attending the Copenhagen conference a significant quantity of greenhouse gases will be emitted. A UNFCCC factsheet states "An initial estimate of overall emissions result in a figure of 40,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide."<sup>4</sup> DEFRA estimate the social cost per tonne of carbon dioxide in 2009 to be £26.50 (\$44, €29).<sup>5</sup> At that social cost of carbon dioxide, the total social cost of Copenhagen CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be £1,073,250 (\$1,776,845, €1,181,200). The Danish government have to offset the emitted carbon dioxide and have allocated £636,027 (\$1,052,990, €700,000) as part as this year's state budget. That money will go towards replacing brick kilns in Dhaka.

**Flights:** An estimated 15,000 delegates will travel to Copenhagen for the conference. A list of delegations was obtained from the UN website and countries were grouped based on continent/area.<sup>6</sup> The largest group was Europe and, in light of that and our expectation that European countries will send the largest delegations, we based our calculations on an assumption that half of the delegates would travel from countries within Europe. Flights for delegates from other countries have been set at £750 (\$1,242, €825) each, which seems a conservative average given that many will be travelling from as far away as East Asia or Australasia.

**Hotels:** Accommodation can be booked through the COP15 Copenhagen website, where a total of 10 hotels were listed. The hotels varied in cost so the average was used, at £121 per double room per night. This was then multiplied by 15,000 to get a per night cost, which was then multiplied by the 11 nights a delegate would have to stay to attend the entire conference. Most hotels cited double rooms on the COP15 website, so that is the rate we have used.

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<sup>3</sup> UNFCCC 'Fact Sheet: Copenhagen- Background Information', November 2009, p. 2

<sup>4</sup> UNFCCC 'Fact Sheet: Minimising the Copenhagen Carbon Footprint'. November 2009, p. 1

<sup>5</sup> DEFRA 'The social price of carbon and the shadow price of carbon: What they are and how to use them in economic appraisal in the UK', December 2007, p. 21

<sup>6</sup> UN '2009 UN Summit on Climate Change Preliminary list of Heads of Delegation', 21 September 2009

Hotel	Double Room per night, £	Double Room per night, \$	Double Room per night, €
Hotel Vinhuset	123	203.64	135.37
Hotel Strandparken	139	230.12	152.98
Hotel Hørby Færgeskro ApS	140	231.78	154.08
Hotel Prindsen i Roskilde A/S	146	241.71	160.69
Quality Hotel Høje Taastrup	79	130.79	86.95
Hilton Copenhagen Airport Hotel	158	261.58	173.89
Hotel Frederik d. II	94	155.62	103.45
Comwell Sorø Storkro A/S	145	240.06	159.58
Scandic Ringsted	65	107.61	71.54
<b>Average</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>133</b>

**Food:** The Bella Centre is located outside of Copenhagen therefore most of the food consumed by delegates will be within the centre itself. The Bella Centre website outlines the type of facilities available to delegates during the conference which includes 4 climate kitchens with healthy and organic food; 3 coffee shops; 5 lounge bars with hot and cold snacks; 4 cafes serving hot food, salads and sandwiches. There is also an a la carte restaurant which changes its menu daily and has an extensive wine list.<sup>7</sup> Unfortunately price lists for food and drink within these venues are not included on the website. We have therefore made a conservative estimate that £20 (\$33, €22) per delegate will be spent on food and drink.

This approximation is very conservative if delegates pay prices in line with the price list for catering services that is available for events held by delegations. Details of the price for some of the catering options available in Copenhagen are laid out below.<sup>8</sup>

Reception Standard	Reception de Luxe
<p><b>Per Person:</b>            2 Organic finger sandwiches            1 stick with mozzarella and tomato            1 slice of vegetable quiche            2 logs of Emmenthaler Cheese w. Celery            1 petit four with chocolate</p> <p><b>Price per person: £15.57 (\$26, €17)</b>            Incl.25% vat, setup service &amp; tableware            NB: Minimum order of 20 persons            Beverages not included</p>	<p><b>Per Person:</b>            1 Mini croissant with chicken salad            1 canape with smoked salmon and asparagus            1 stick with mozzarella and olives            1 chicken stick with pepper (warm)            2 mini vegetarian pizzas (warm)            2 logs of morbier cheese with walnuts and crackers            1 pineapple in chocolate            1 petit four</p> <p><b>Price per person: £22.72 (\$38, €25)</b>            Incl.25% vat, setup service &amp; tableware            NB: Minimum order of 20 persons            Beverages not included</p>
Breakfast	Cake and Fruit
<p><b>Per Person:</b>            1 organic bread roll w. butter, cheese and jam</p>	<p><b>Per Person:</b>            1 Danish pastry or slice of carrot cake</p>

<sup>7</sup> Details are available here <http://catering.bellacenter.dk/english/catering+cop+15>

<sup>8</sup> Further information of catering service available from an online order form <http://catering.bellacenter.dk/english/catering+cop+15>

1 Danish pastry

**Price per person: £5.19 (\$8.60, €5.71)**

Incl. 25% vat, setup service & tableware

NB: Minimum order of 10 persons

Beverages not included.

Platter of organic fruits

**Price per person: £9.72 (\$16, €10.70)**

Incl. 25% vat, setup service & tableware

NB: Minimum order of 20 persons

Beverages not included

Beverage	Price £	Price \$	Price €
<b>Red Wine:</b> Poco Sueno - Cabernet Sauvignon, Chile - 70cl.	13	22	14.31
<b>Red Wine:</b> Raimat Abadia - Costers del Segre, Spain - 70cl.	32	53	35.22
<b>White Wine:</b> Moncaro Trebbiano - Marche, Italy - 70cl.	13	21	14.31
<b>White Wine:</b> Riesling d'Alsace - Bestheim, France - 70cl.	32	53	35.22
<b>Beer:</b> Tuborg - 33cl. (4,6%)	3.25	5.38	3.58
<b>Beer de Luxe:</b> Braunstein Organic Christmas Beer - 50 cl.(7,0%) - Local Danish producer	5.20	5.72	5.72
<b>Soft Drinks:</b> Coca Cola, Coca Cola light, Fanta, Sprite, Schweppes lemon & mineral water - 25cl.	£2.60	4.30	2.86
<b>Juice, organic:</b> 1ltr.	6.50	10.76	7.15
<b>Juice, organic:</b> Assorted selection of juices - 27cl. from "Velvære" - Local Danish producer -	2.60	4.30	2.86
<b>Coffee, organic and fair-trade:</b> One thermo of black coffee incl. sugar, sweetener, low fat milk and soy milk upon request	6.50	10.76	7.15
<b>Tea, organic:</b> One thermo of hot water incl. sugar, teabags, sweetener, low fat milk and soy milk upon request. Fair-Trade	6.50	10.76	7.15
<b>Coffee Kit</b> - for your coffee machine: 1 pack of grounded organic and fair-trade coffee, 10 coffee filters, selection of organic teabags, 10 disposable and biodegradable cups, sugar, sweetener, wooden stirs, low fat milk and soy milk upon request. <i>NB: Coffee machine not included.</i>	19.50	32.28	21.46

**Conferencing facilities:** The conference will take place at the Bella Conference Centre in Copenhagen. Within the Bella centre participating members can rent delegation offices, meeting rooms and commercial equipment. We have calculated based on the price of delegation rooms per square metre that if half of the delegates had a seat in a delegation room it would cost £8,080,791 (\$13,378,350, €8,893,575). This cost is based on one seat costing £1,077.44, (\$1,787, €1,186) for the entirety of the conference, which is the rate for a 16 seat room, and an exchange rate of £0.90861:€1:

Delegation Room	Cost per sq. m,	Number of people room is expected to seat	Cost, £	Cost per seat, £
24 sq/m	€395.27	8	8,620	1,077.50
48 sq/m	€395.27	16	17,239	1,077.44
96 sq/m	€395.27	24	34,478	1,436.58
144 sq/m	€395.27	32	51,717	1,616.16

Delegation Room	Cost per sq. m, \$	Number of people room is expected to seat	Cost, \$	Cost per seat, \$
24 sq/m	595.53	8	14,293	1,787
48 sq/m	595.53	16	28,585	1,787
96 sq/m	595.53	24	57,171	2,382
144 sq/m	595.53	32	85,756	2,680

Delegation Room	Cost per sq. m, €	Number of people room is expected to seat	Cost, €	Cost per seat, €
24 sq/m	395.27	8	9,486	1,186
48 sq/m	395.27	16	18,973	1,186
96 sq/m	395.27	24	37,946	1,581
144 sq/m	395.27	32	56,919	1,779

That figure only includes the cost of delegation offices and not the cost of any commercial equipment which may be rented by delegates when in the conference centre. The table below gives prices listed by the Bella Centre for various items of office equipment and other facilities:

Rental of Equipment	Cost £	Cost \$	Cost €
Projector	307-2,241	508-3,710	338-2,466
PCs	233-319	386-528	256-351
Laser Printer	110	182	121
DVD Player	43	71	47
Screen	141-203	233-336	155-223
Sound System	147-221	243-366	162-243
Internet Connection	269-1,222	445-2,023	296-1,345
IT Service Assistant (per ½ hour)	54	89	59
ISDN Line	253	418	278

Telephone	34	56	37
Hostess 7am- 6pm	35	58	39
Hostess 6pm-7am	46	76	51
Guard 8am-4pm	35	58	39
Flowers and Décor	22-145	36-240	24-160
Technical Help	55-83	91-137	61-91
Router	251	416	276

**Delegates' salaries:** As well as appropriate facilities, delegations also need delegates. Those delegates are likely to come primarily from organisations' existing staff. The need for those staff to attend the conference still represents a cost though, as they could otherwise be doing other work. If there isn't other work for them to do, total staffing could be reduced which would cut costs.

The median salary, in the lowest band for a British senior civil servant, is used as a reasonable proxy for the average annual staffing cost per delegate, at £72,713 (\$120,382, €80,027).<sup>9</sup> 11 days per delegate, the length of the conference is around 5 per cent of a normal working year, which implies that the cost of staffing Copenhagen is around £3,635, (\$6,019, €4,001) and the total cost £54,534,750 (\$90,286,332, €60,019,976).

This is a conservative estimate, for a number of reasons:

- Considerable amounts of time are likely to be used before and after the conference preparing for the trip, both on the part of delegates and other staff supporting delegations.
- While many delegates will be paid less than £72,713, many political, civil service and business leaders will be paid much more. At the same time, that estimate of salary does not include other costs such as employer pension contributions.

**Other conferences:** For information here are the budgets for other major recent international conferences.

Conference/Summit	Cost £ (million)	Cost \$ (million)	Cost € (million)
G8 Summit Gleneagles	80	132	88
G8 Summit Japan	280	464	308
G20 London	20	33	22
Poznan Climate Summit	23	38	25

<sup>9</sup> Review of Senior Salaries, 'Thirty First Report on Senior Salaries 2009', Report Number. 68 March 2009, p. 12.