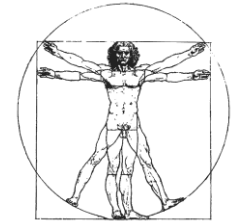


# ecbi Finance Circle

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## BERLIN SEMINAR

At COP 17 in Durban, it was decided *to designate the Green Climate Fund as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, with arrangements to be concluded between the Conference of the Parties and the Fund at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to ensure that it is accountable to and functions under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties.*

However, things did not go as smoothly as might have been expected. For one, any attempt at the two GCF Board meetings before COP 18 to prepare draft arrangements proved to be doomed, because some members argued that the drafting should be done by the COP. At COP 18, no drafting of arrangements took place either. Indeed, the first draft Decision submitted by the COP Presidency declared that no additional arrangements were necessary, which clearly was not acceptable, particularly to those who had blocked the drafting at GCF level. The compromise that was ultimately adopted requested *the Standing Committee and the Board of the Green Climate Fund to develop arrangements between the Conference of the Parties and the Green Climate Fund.*

Given the politically sensitive background of this decision, it was decided to organise an ecbi Finance Circle event in order to provide an informal platform for an initial exchange of ideas on this important topic between members of these two bodies. After some scheduling problems, the event was held in Berlin on 11 March 2013. It was attended by the two SCF Co-chairs (Antigua & Barbuda, and Switzerland), four SCF members (Australia, Belgium, Norway, and US), a GCFB alternate member (US), and representatives of five GCFB members/alternates (Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, and Norway). *The 'seniority imbalance' between the attendants from the two bodies may have been due to the fact that some GCFB working groups were still meeting, but it may also have been that fact that on the GCF Board the topic of arrangements was still viewed as highly controversial, not to say 'toxic'.*

Nonetheless, the event was I believe successful in demonstrating that the topic is actually quite straightforward, and can be dealt with in very simple terms, as put forward by the possible elements proposed by the SCF. Indeed, when the topic was eventually raised at the very end of the GCF Board meeting, there was no controversy at all, and the GCFB mandated its Co-chairs 'to develop ... the draft arrangements ... with the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Finance.'