

[Read today's paper](#)[Sign in](#) | [Register](#)

Go to:

**politics** Special reports

<a href="#">Home</a>	<a href="#">Ask Aristotle</a>	<a href="#">Comment</a>	<a href="#">Newsblog</a>	<a href="#">Polls</a>	<a href="#">Backbencher</a>	<a href="#">US elections</a>
<a href="#">Talk</a>	<a href="#">Special reports</a>	<a href="#">Thinktanks</a>	<a href="#">Floating voters</a>	<a href="#">Links</a>	<a href="#">Parliament</a>	<a href="#">This week</a>

**Foreign  
affairs**[Special report: foreign affairs](#)

3.15pm

**Blair seeks new climate agreement with US****Ask Aristotle**

Find out about your MP

Enter postcode or place:

Enter person:

[How to use Aristotle](#)**Archive search**[Advanced search](#)**In this section**[Blair's peace initiative  
dismays Israel](#)[Arms firm tries to block  
papers on alleged bribery](#)[Yorkshire's gift to Entente  
Cordiale](#)[No 10 told of Putin's  
authoritarian trend](#)**Sarah Left and agencies****Thursday December 9, 2004**

The prime minister, Tony Blair, has been working to persuade the US to sign up to an alternate agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions, it emerged today.

Reports of Mr Blair's move came as representatives of almost 200 nations gathered in Argentina to discuss the future of the Kyoto agreement on climate change.

The Times said British negotiators had been trying to tempt the US president, George Bush, into accepting a so-called "Kyoto-lite" deal that would combine reduced carbon emissions with a statement of scientific understanding on the nature of the threat from climate change.

The US has steadfastly refused to sign up to Kyoto, which sets targets for industrialised nations to reduce carbon emissions by 2012, claiming it would harm its economy. Mr Bush's administration has also questioned whether there was reliable scientific evidence of climate change, and whether tackling carbon emissions would solve the problem.

Downing Street today confirmed that Mr Blair last week held discussions with the US senator John McCain about climate

[UK firm accused of £16m arms bribe](#)

[Musharraf: al-Qaida is on the run](#)

[Tank deal that blew hole in ethical policy](#)

[Brown criticised on malaria cash](#)

[Gibraltar talks break new ground](#)

[Pakistani president denounces war on terror](#)

change, but would not comment directly on the Times story.

A spokeswoman for No 10 said Mr Blair had held talks with Mr Bush about climate change, but said: "We're not talking about a new Kyoto-style treaty. These proposals would be complimentary to Kyoto, not instead of it. We are still fully committed to the Kyoto agreement. We need to go beyond Kyoto to accelerate a programme on low carbon emissions while promoting economic growth."

## Advertiser links

### [Pioneer PureVision Plasma Displays](#)

Pioneer's PureVision 43" or 50" plasma displays offer a...

[pioneerpurevision.com](http://pioneerpurevision.com)

### [Delectronix CCTV Surveillance Systems](#)

Delectronix offers great plasma TVs, security equipment and...

[delectronix.com](http://delectronix.com)

### [Plasma.com - Free Shipping on Plasma TVs](#)

Free shipping and great prices on Plasma TV screens.

[plasma.com](http://plasma.com)

Mr Blair has listed the issue of climate change as a top priority when the UK takes over the presidency of the G8 group of industrialised nations next year. However, the prime minister was yesterday forced to admit that Britain would miss its own target of a 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. The UK is instead heading for reductions of 14%.

At the UN global climate conference in today, European participants urged governments to set targets for emissions beyond the 2012 deadline outlined in the Kyoto protocol. "The

time has come to think about the next step," the EU negotiator Jaap Frederiks said. "We've always said Kyoto is not enough. Kyoto is just a start."

The US and Australia are the largest industrialised countries to have rejected the Kyoto protocol, a landmark agreement that takes effect in February and requires 30 of the world's developed nations to reduce their outputs of greenhouse gases that are produced by industry, automobiles and power plants. The US is by far the world's largest producer of carbon emissions.

### Special report

[Climate change](#)

### Graphics

[CO2 emissions](#)

[The world in the 2050s](#)

[The greenhouse effect](#)

### Interactive

[Guide to drilling for oil in the Arctic](#)

[Calculate your personal carbon count](#)

### Key resources

[The Kyoto protocol](#)

[Bjorn Lomborg: Are we doing the right thing?](#)

### Useful links

[UN framework convention on climate change](#)

[Greenpeace](#)

[Friends of the earth](#)

---

[Printable version](#) | [Send it to a friend](#) | [Save story](#)



Guardian Unlimited © Guardian Newspapers Limited 2004