THE RISE OF DARTH MERKEL?

As humanity fights the dark threat of climate change, over 154,201 world citizens from 192 nations petitioned Chancellor Merkel, Prime Minister Tusk, Prime Minister Berlusconi and all leaders across Europe with the following:

"A bold EU climate package is critical to the global climate negotiations. Europe must honour their promise to increase binding, carbon-cutting commitments to at least 30% by 2020 if a global deal is reached; and provide leadership in the United Nations talks to deliver a powerful new global agreement."

Defiant of their economic foes, fellow citizens from Germany, Poland and Italy rose up in support of a green recovery package:

- 85% of Germans believe that Germany should show leadership in securing a strong climate agreement for the EU despite the economic downturn*
- 74% of Poles believe that Poland should show leadership in securing a strong climate agreement for the EU despite the economic downturn
- 87% of Italians believe that Italy should show leadership in securing a strong climate agreement for the EU despite the economic downturn

Avaaz commissioned YouGov.com opinion poll 5 - 9 December 2008

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Germany/Poland/ Italy should show leadership in securing a strong climate agreement for the EU despite the economic downturn.	Total agree Total disagree Don't know	85% 11% 3%	Poles 74 % 21% 5%	87% 11% 3%	
Do you think that a strong, ambitious response to climate change (including promoting energy efficiency, setting a price for carbon, investing in new technologies and developing a market for 'green jobs') will be more likely to help or hinder an economic recovery?	It would help (or not affect it) It would hinder Don't know	86 % 6% 8%	73% 23% 4%	9% 4%	

Line items may be rounded up or down. Totals may not always equal 100%

*All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc, an international opinion research company. Total sample sizes were 1003 German adults, 1001 Polish adults and 1001 Italian adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 5th - 9th December 2008. The surveys were carried out online. The German figures are representative of all German adults (aged 18+). The Polish figures are representative of all Polish adults (aged 18-65). The Italian figures are representative of all Italian adults (aged 18+). Respondents referred to as being in agreement either selected "Strongly agree" or "Somewhat agree" when asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a particular statement.

Full details of the poll can be found at avaaz.org/poll



WILL MERKEL IGNORE HER OWN CITIZENS AND TURN TO THE DARK SIDE?