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Subject : Tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change
(Buenos Aires, 6-17 December 2004)
– Council conclusions

Delegations will find attached the conclusions adopted by the Council (Environment) on
14 October 2003.

Preparation of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Buenos Aires, 6-17 December 2004)

- Council conclusions -

The Council of the European Union

1. NOTES with deep concern the rate of climate change that is observed worldwide and that Europe's climate is changing with larger impacts than previously expected, as is shown in the European Environment Agency (EEA) report "Impacts of Europe's changing climate" of August 2004: Europe's temperature has risen faster in the last 100 years than the global average (0,95°C in Europe compared with 0,7°C globally); 8 out of 9 glaciers show a significant retreat; extreme weather events, such as droughts, heat waves and floods, have increased; UNDERLINES the need to accelerate actions to tackle climate change, bearing in mind in particular the EEA's conclusion that even with significant emission reductions over the coming decades the climate system will continue to change, and that worldwide societies have to prepare for and adapt to the consequences of some inevitable climate change; REAFFIRMS the EU's continued commitment to assisting developing countries to adapt to adverse effects of climate change, and UNDERLINES the need to limit climate change effects in order to support international and national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;
2. REAFFIRMS that, with a view to meeting the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ("the Convention") to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, overall global annual mean surface temperature increase should not exceed 2°C above pre-industrial levels in order to limit high risks, including irreversible impacts of climate change; RECOGNISES that 2°C would already imply significant impacts on ecosystems and water resources; EMPHASISES that the maximum global temperature increase of 2°C over pre-industrial levels should be considered as an overall long-term objective to guide global efforts to reduce climate change risks in accordance with the precautionary approach; RECOGNISES that long term decision-making by the business community requires a long term global policy perspective to inform investment and drive technology development and diffusion, including with regard to cost-effective measures;

3. ACKNOWLEDGES that recent scientific knowledge indicates that the global temperature increase and associated impacts resulting from greenhouse gas emissions could be significantly larger than previously expected; RECOGNISES that this strongly underlines the necessity of an urgent global response and in that regard, LOOKS FORWARD to the consideration at the 2005 Spring European Council of medium and longer term emission reduction strategies, including targets, as a contribution to global efforts, in the context of the ultimate objective of the Convention;
4. REAFFIRMS the commitment of the enlarged European Community and its Member States to delivering on their respective Convention and Kyoto Protocol commitments; UNDERLINES the importance of the ratification process of the Protocol and that its entry into force is urgent; NOTES that implementation of the Protocol can have economic benefits and encourage investment, especially in improved energy efficiency, *inter alia* through Joint Implementation, and that to make the most of those opportunities, important implementation processes need to be started as a matter of urgency; therefore URGES countries that have not yet ratified the Protocol to do so; in this context, WELCOMES the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation to submit the proposal to ratify the Protocol to the Duma;
5. RECONFIRMS the European Community and the Member States' resolve to continue combating climate change under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and to continue to strengthen the global approach, taking into account common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities; EMPHASISES that the EU is pressing ahead with climate change policies and measures to deliver results; LOOKS FORWARD to demonstrating progress in 2005 and to exchange views with other Parties on results of mitigation policies while recognising that it will take time before all benefits of policies are reflected in the emission trends, and in that regard STRESSES the importance of the revised mechanism for monitoring Community greenhouse gas emissions and for implementing the Kyoto Protocol providing an excellent tool for monitoring and evaluating EU progress towards meeting its greenhouse gas emissions reduction commitments;

6. WELCOMES the progress made in the implementation of the EU emissions trading scheme and its registry system and LOOKS FORWARD to a timely start of trading between over 10.000 installations covering approximately 50% of EU CO₂ emissions, that will contribute to a flexible and cost-effective implementation of the Kyoto Protocol commitments; EMPHASISES the adoption of the Directive linking the EU emissions trading scheme to the Kyoto Protocol's project mechanisms which will allow EU companies more flexibility, will reduce their costs, and will support sustainable development around the world; LOOKS FORWARD to considering establishing links between emissions trading schemes with other Parties; in this context, WELCOMES the request of Norway to link its scheme to the EU emissions trading scheme as of 2005;
7. REITERATES that work towards a low carbon emitting economy is needed; RECALLS the political declaration of the International Conference for Renewable Energies held in Germany last June, that renewable energies, combined with enhanced energy efficiency, can *inter alia* significantly contribute to sustainable development, to providing access to energy, especially for the poor, and to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions; UNDERLINES that the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition should be a continuing forum of like-minded, collaborating countries aiming at the substantial increase of the overall share of renewable energy and could provide input to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 2006/2007; in this context WELCOMES the launching of the Global Renewable Energy Policies and Measures Database and the progress made through the Patient Capital Initiative for creating a Global Renewable Energy Fund of Funds to deliver affordable risk capital to renewable energy entrepreneurs in developing countries and economies in transition; LOOKS FORWARD to the World Conference on Energy for Development in the Netherlands in December 2004 that will focus on energy policies for sustainable development in developing countries; NOTES in that context that *inter alia* Energy for Sustainable Development, Industrial Development, Air Pollution and Climate Change figure on the agenda of the CSD in 2006/2007;

8. RECALLS the need for urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to the use of the international bunker fuels, taking into account the agreement in the Sixth Environment Action Programme that the European Community has approved, from which specific action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from aviation and marine transportation should have been identified within ICAO by 2002 and within IMO by 2003; REITERATES its invitation to the Commission of December 2001, October 2002 and December 2003 to consider in a timely fashion such action and to make proposals in 2005; without precluding any market-based options, LOOKS FORWARD to the study by the Commission on addressing the climate change impacts of aviation through the EU emissions trading scheme;
9. RECALLING the commitment in the “Bonn Political Declaration” on climate change funding for developing countries, REAFFIRMS its determination to deliver USD 369 million annually by 2005 and REITERATES that the relevant Member States will report on their respective contributions in their national communications as of 2006;
10. EMPHASISES the need to start within the context of the UN climate change process the consideration of the post 2012 framework promptly and in this regard REITERATES that mitigation of climate change is a cornerstone of present and future climate change policies and that, since climate change is now inevitable, adaptation to climate change is another key element of such policies;
11. CONGRATULATES all Parties to the Convention on the progress made in 10 years implementation of the Convention; LOOKS FORWARD to engaging in panel discussions at the high level segment of the tenth session of the Conference of Parties in Buenos Aires in December 2004 to exchange views on accomplishments and future challenges.
