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INFORMATION NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Delegations
Subject : Climate change: Follow-up to the Copenhagen Conference (7-19 December 2009)
- Council conclusions

Delegations will find attached conclusions on the abovementioned issue as adopted by the Council (Environment) on 15 March 2010.

**Climate change: Follow-up to the Copenhagen Conference (7-19 December 2009)
- Council conclusions -**

The Council of the European Union

1. RECOGNISES the importance of the positive outcomes of the Copenhagen Conference which reflect a political understanding on the long-term response to climate change, contain some provisions to implement rapid action, embody international solidarity and constitute a step in the continuing negotiations on a global legally-binding post-2012 agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); HIGHLIGHTS the fact that the need to forge this agreement to combat climate change is becoming more urgent; REGRETS that the outcomes of the Copenhagen Conference did not reflect the EU's expectations and ambitions, and STRESSES that they raised climate change to the highest level of government policy and mobilised public opinion in an unprecedented manner.
2. WELCOMES the decisions adopted in Copenhagen on the continuation of both AWG-KP and AWG-LCA tracks with a view to both tracks delivering the results of their work to the Cancún Climate Conference (29 November-10 December 2010); UNDERLINES the need to integrate the political guidance given in the Copenhagen Accord in the negotiating texts.
3. STRESSES that it is crucial for the UNFCCC to deliver in time and EXPRESSES its openness to consider positively all proposals keeping the increase in global temperature below 2°C compared to the pre-industrial level so as to ensure that the work in both tracks results in a comprehensive global legal framework which contains and preserves all the essential elements of the Kyoto Protocol; in this context, STRESSES that focused work should be conducted in order to increase the ambition level in the run-up to Cancún and to provide all Parties and stakeholders with clear signals on the mitigation targets, actions and mechanisms as well as the common rules for fulfilling and implementing them.

4. WELCOMES the fact that Parties accounting for over 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions * have associated themselves with or expressed support for the Copenhagen Accord; ENCOURAGES all Parties which have not yet done so to associate themselves with the Accord as soon as possible and to provide information on the targets or actions that they will implement; STRESSES the importance of starting with the immediate implementation of the Accord and UNDERLINES the EU's determination to play a leading role in this respect in order to pave the way for a successful outcome at the Cancún Climate Conference.
5. EMPHASISES its continued full support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in deepening our understanding of climate change through its robust and solid scientific assessments of climate change; TAKES NOTE of the fact that a limited number of inaccuracies have been reported; IS CONVINCED that the IPCC offers the most authoritative and comprehensive assessment process on the existing science of climate change; in this context, WELCOMES the initiatives to review the internal IPCC procedures for its future work.
6. WELCOMES the recognition in the Copenhagen Accord of the scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be kept below 2°C compared to the pre-industrial level; REITERATES that, according to the IPCC, to stay below 2°C requires that global greenhouse gas emissions peak by 2020 at the latest and are reduced by at least 50% compared with 1990 by 2050 and continue to decline thereafter; developed countries as a group should reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 80% to 95% by 2050 below 1990 levels, and in this context, REAFFIRMS supporting an EU objective to reduce emissions by 80-95% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels; also REAFFIRMS its October 2009 conclusions concerning emissions from international aviation and maritime transport.

* Estimate from the Joint Research Centre, February 2010.

7. WELCOMES the fact that many developing countries have put forward quantified nationally appropriate mitigation actions which will contribute towards achieving the long-term global goal; LOOKS FORWARD to exploring with developing countries how appropriate support can contribute to their efforts to undertake ambitious nationally appropriate mitigation actions.
8. CALLS on all Parties to begin to implement without delay their offers for 2020 emission reduction targets and nationally appropriate mitigation actions as communicated to the UNFCCC Secretariat and to further reinforce their level of ambition in order to keep the 2°C objective within reach; in this context, ACKNOWLEDGES that the current overall level of pledges needs to be increased.
9. In the context of a global and comprehensive agreement, UNDERLINES the importance of an assessment of the implementation of the Copenhagen Accord to be completed by 2015, including consideration of strengthening the long-term goal referencing various matters presented by science, including in relation to temperature rises of 1.5°C.
10. As notified in its letter of 28 January 2010 to the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, REAFFIRMS the EU's independent commitment to achieve a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 as well as the EU's conditional offer to move to a 30% reduction by 2020 compared to 1990, as part of a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012 and provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and that developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.

11. CONSIDERS that there is a need for an assessment of comparability of the quantified economy-wide emissions targets of Annex I Parties for 2020, making use of a balanced combination of criteria such as those contained in its March 2009 conclusions, and of the adequacy of nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties announced in the context of the Copenhagen Accord; UNDERLINES that the analysis of comparability of commitments, actions and contributions will be conducted also using the 2°C objective as yardstick; INVITES the European Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, to work on this assessment; RECOGNISES that this assessment should help to prepare the EU for a decision whether to step up to a 30% emissions reduction commitment.
12. INVITES the European Commission to update by June 2010 the impact assessment for the EU and the Member States in view of the EU's conditional move to a 30% emissions reduction commitment; REAFFIRMS the EU and its Member States' commitment to develop their own low-emission development strategies, building on the climate and energy package and TAKES NOTE of the European Commission's ongoing work on an EU low-emission development strategy.
13. RECALLS the December 2008 European Council conclusions that the European Commission will present in March 2010 a detailed analysis of the results of the Copenhagen Conference for the European Council to make an assessment of the situation, including its effects on the competitiveness of European industry and the other economic sectors.

14. WISHES TO RECALL that, in a global context of competitive markets, the risk of carbon leakage is a concern in certain sectors, such as energy-intensive industries particularly exposed to international competition; RECALLS that this risk is analysed and addressed in the ETS Directive so that, to preserve the environmental integrity of the EU's policies, in light of the outcome of the international negotiations and the extent to which these lead to global greenhouse gas emission reductions, it is possible to consider appropriate measures to be taken in compliance with international trade rules; STRESSES that an ambitious international agreement remains the best way of addressing this issue; IS LOOKING FORWARD to the Commission submitting by 30 June 2010, in light of the outcome of the Copenhagen Conference and its follow-up as well as the extent to which these lead to global greenhouse gas emission reductions, and after consulting with all relevant social partners, an analytical report, assessing the situation with regard to energy-intensive sectors or sub-sectors that have been determined to be exposed to significant risks of carbon leakage, accompanied by any appropriate proposals; RECOGNISES the need similarly to assess the impact on the Union's agriculture sector.
15. UNDERLINES that the Copenhagen Accord requires urgent action on adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and prioritises the most vulnerable developing countries, especially least developed countries, small island developing states and Africa.
16. RECALLS that developed countries have committed themselves in the Copenhagen Accord to providing resources approaching USD 30 billion in the period 2010-2012, with a balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation and with a special emphasis on vulnerable and least developed countries; REAFFIRMS the EU's and its Member States' commitment to contribute EUR 2.4 billion annually over the period 2010-2012; UNDERLINES that the EU and its Member States are ready to present a preliminary state of play on these commitments at the UNFCCC session in Bonn (31 May-11 June 2010) and submit EU-coordinated reports on the implementation of this commitment at the Cancún Climate Conference and thereafter on an annual basis and ENCOURAGES other contributors to do so as well.

17. Also RECALLS developed countries' commitment in the Copenhagen Accord, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions of developing countries and transparency on implementation, to a goal of mobilising jointly USD 100 billion a year by 2020, coming from a wide variety of both public and private sources, to assist developing countries in fighting climate change; WELCOMES the establishment by the United Nations Secretary General of an Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing; UNDERLINES that the potential of innovative sources of finance and of market-based instruments, including carbon markets, should be taken into account; STRESSES the need to assist developing countries in the most effective and efficient manner and to start a transparent process for establishing the basis for the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund.
18. RECALLS the crucial importance of carbon markets, including cap-and-trade systems, for achieving global mitigation objectives in a cost-efficient manner and for driving low-carbon investments while contributing to sustainable development; RECALLS that maintaining a continuing strong role for the project-based mechanisms, reforming them, including through enhancing their effectiveness, geographical distribution, environmental integrity and governance, and establishing new sectoral market mechanisms are important for broadening carbon markets and maintaining the trust of market investors while contributing to generate financial flows to developing countries; STRESSES that cooperation on carbon market readiness should be strengthened.
19. WELCOMES the provisions on measurement, reporting and verification and for international consultations and analysis as contained in the Copenhagen Accord and UNDERTAKES to work with all Parties to develop the necessary guidelines with a view to their adoption by the Cancún Climate Conference in order to implement those provisions, drawing on the existing provisions under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and subsequent decisions.

20. IS DETERMINED to make rapid progress to develop guidelines, rules or modalities for REDD-plus actions, in order to operationalise REDD-plus as foreseen in the Copenhagen Accord, and thus WELCOMES initiatives to mobilise financing as part of fast-start funding under the Copenhagen Accord and to facilitate decision-making on REDD-plus at the Cancún Climate Conference, including agreeing targets to reduce gross tropical deforestation by at least 50% by 2020 compared to current levels and to halt global forest cover loss by 2030 at the latest, as well as the necessary finance beyond the fast-start period in line with our overall commitment as contained in the Copenhagen Accord; WELCOMES in this context the International Conference on major forest basins, held in Paris on 11 March 2010, in particular the progress made on funding pledges and coordinated implementation of fast-start financing for forestry.
21. EMPHASISES the importance of accelerating the development, deployment and diffusion of environmentally safe and sustainable low-carbon technologies; in this context, WELCOMES the establishment of a Technology Mechanism designed to meet developing countries' needs and priorities on adaptation and mitigation, drawing *inter alia* on the technology action plans of the Major Economies Forum on Climate and Energy and the fruitful experiences within the EU; CALLS for the allocation already in 2010 of resources as part of fast-start finance to actions related to such technologies, including possible pilot actions both on adaptation and mitigation.
22. EMPHASISES its willingness to strengthen bilateral and regional alliances with a view to building bridges between Parties which reinvigorate and feed into the UNFCCC; EXPRESSES its support for the incumbent and incoming Presidents of COP 15/CMP 5 and COP 16/CMP 6 respectively, so that the next steps in the international negotiations lead to a transparent and successful outcome in Cancún that should ensure the stability of the regulatory framework.

