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INFORMATION NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Delegations

Subject: Third part of the fourteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA 14) and third part of the sixteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 16)
(Panama City, 1 - 7 October 2011)
= Compilation of EU statements

Please find attached for information the opening and closing statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States at abovementioned AWGs.

Third part of the sixteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol ([AWG-KP 16](#))

Opening plenary on 1 October 2011

This statement is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

This statement is on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

After a tough session in Bangkok and a rough start in Bonn, we managed to climb out of discussions about the agenda and move towards building understanding on the potential outcome of the Durban Conference. We have been able to move forward within the two weeks in Bonn and we are now hopeful, that balanced progress will continue.

And so we must use this time wisely in order to ensure continuity after the first commitment period. Time is running out on the ability to reach our 2°C objective. And this is why the EU sees a strong link between the two tracks and the need for both to deliver.

The European Union and its Member States have been clearly demonstrating and will clearly demonstrate their commitment to the Kyoto Protocol. We have built on the Kyoto rules our whole climate change policy, the EU ETS being a key part of it. We have declared our willingness to consider the second Commitment Period and this willingness is still there. EU Ministers will further refine our position on this right after this session.

But, we alone are not able to solve the global warming problem. With many countries declaring that they would choose different approaches, the European Union with a number of other countries who are still considering the second commitment period, would only be responsible for around 16% of global greenhouse gases emissions. The 2°C target cannot be secured if the EU with a few others would be the only group of parties who are ready to commit.

This is why, in Panama we must make substantial progress towards the establishment of a post-2012 global and comprehensive legally binding framework based on coherent and stable rules.

Such a wider approach should enable the move towards a comprehensive legally-binding framework, which would engage all parties and especially major economies in taking on necessary commitments and actions. Legal certainty, predictability, reciprocity and comparability must be ensured. A multilateral rules-based approach, including a common accounting system based on the existing rules under the Kyoto Protocol is crucial.

This is why, looking towards Durban, the EU is willing to consider a second commitment period as part of a wider outcome, where balance is maintained and essential decisions are made both on process and substance in both tracks. Reform of the Kyoto Protocol in order to preserve its environmental integrity will need to be a part of this outcome.

We look forward to working with you, Mr. Chair and distinguished colleagues, so that we can pave a way to a successful Conference in Durban.

Closing plenary on 7 October 2011

This statement is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

This statement is on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

We welcome the progress made on many issues. The work done during this session will undoubtedly contribute to building the Durban package, which we all expect to be balanced (across and within both tracks).

We are encouraged by the progress and effort which has been made on the discussions on a future legally-binding framework and its legal form. If we are to be serious about reaching a balanced and ambitious outcome, which the world expects of us, this matter will require deepened political attention.

The discourse under the Kyoto Protocol this week has been positive. We have been able to progress on some important issues and to streamline the text and many issues are ready for a political compromise. This include the transformation of pledges of Parties into QELROs, the carry-over of AAU surplus and the length of the commitment period. The need for continuation of market based mechanisms post-2012 and introduction of new market based mechanism is another pressing issue that should become part of the Durban package. Market mechanisms are what makes emission reduction efforts not only economically feasible, but create opportunities for substantial transfer of funds, capacity and technology. With some more technical refinement of the text on LULUCF rules we are hopeful closing this issue successfully in Durban.

The Panama negotiations have advanced us towards the needed Durban outcome. At Durban we must make substantial progress towards the establishment of a global post-2012 rules based and comprehensive legally binding framework engaging all major economies.

With this in mind, the EU has stated that it is willing to consider a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as part of a wider outcome including the perspective of the global and comprehensive framework engaging all major economies. The European Union and its Member States have clearly demonstrated their commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and will continue to do so.

Today the European Commission published its annual report on the EU's progress towards meeting its Kyoto Protocol target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The European Environment Agency (EEA) also published its latest analysis of greenhouse gas trends in the EU. These reports highlight the substantial progress the EU and its Member States are making in breaking the link between carbon emissions and economic growth. By 2010 the EU's 27 Member States succeeded in cutting emissions by 15.5% since 1990, while the economy grew by 41% over the same period.

We will continue on our path towards achieving a goal of limiting the growth of global temperature to below 2°C. However, the EU alone will not be able to solve the climate problem. The Durban outcome must address this fact in an adequate manner.

Distinguished colleagues,

Just seven weeks remain between now and COP 17 in the Republic of South Africa.

Although our time in Panama is drawing to a close, our work and preparations need to intensify further. We pledge our continued support to the facilitators and the Chairs to take forward our work. We also welcome the leadership of the incoming COP Presidency, which will be crucial in the next few weeks, and support their continued consultation towards a balanced outcome at Durban. We look forward to the pre-COP meeting in Cape Town and advance on a common understanding of how we can make COP 17 in Durban a success.

Thank you Mr. Chair

Third part of the fourteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention ([AWG-LCA 14](#)).

Opening plenary on 1 October 2011

This statement is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

This statement is on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

After a tough session in Bangkok and a rough start in Bonn, we managed to climb out of discussions about the agenda and move towards building understanding on the potential outcome of the Durban Conference. Now, we must use our time wisely.

This next week will be crucial. Developing draft decision texts will be key. We cannot lose time. The only way to move closer to the delivery of our 2°C objective is to make swift progress towards establishing a comprehensive legally-binding framework, which would engage all parties and especially major economies in taking on necessary commitments and actions. Legal certainty, predictability, reciprocity and comparability must be ensured. A top-down approach is essential.

We must urgently make progress here, in Panama and emerge from this meeting with a clear basis to work from in Durban.

First, the “ambition gap” needs to be addressed. This problem is one of the most important issues as we approach Durban – mitigation is the essential cornerstone of long-term cooperative action and Parties must take action to bridge the gap and deliver their common objective of staying below 2°C. As well as the use of common accounting rules for understanding targets, work on peaking and reduction objectives must progress. We also look forward to the results of the ongoing UNEP work in this context.

Second, a robust transparent and rigorous Measurement, Reporting and Verification framework and common accounting rules are key to the credibility of any future legally binding agreement. We look forward to discussing proposals of Parties based on their submissions on the elements of MRV, such as biennial reporting guidelines as well as ICA and IAR. We expect draft texts to be prepared as basis for further work and decisions in Durban.

Let me emphasize however, that further progress is also needed on all building blocks for a balanced package in Durban that is acceptable for all, including on adaptation, technology, finance, capacity building, international aviation and maritime, agriculture, HFCs and new market based mechanisms.

However, we must set our ambitions higher still. Implementing decisions from last year will be a welcome step forward, but will simply not be enough to ensure needed progress. The time is right to talk about legal form, including options for Durban. We need to decide on a roadmap specifying where we are going, how long it will take us to get there and what we will need to reach our target. With the 2°C objective in mind and a real sense of urgency, we believe that leaving Panama without having discussed such fundamental issues is not an option.

We look forward to working hard this week, to make bold and balanced progress towards the Durban Conference, which is right around the corner. We need to leave Panama with advanced texts on all issues, in order to be able to agree on a package for Durban. We declare our full support to you, Mr. Chair, in making that happen.

Closing plenary on 7 October 2011

This statement is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

This statement is on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

We welcome the progress made on many issues, including having taken our work forward on mitigation ambition, clarifying the pledges, the common accounting framework as well as enhanced MRV. The work done during this session will undoubtedly contribute to building the Durban package, which we all expect to be balanced (across and within both tracks), substantial, but most of all, giving us clear guidance on how to take this process further. We need to deliver on Cancún and move a step further.

We are encouraged by the progress and effort which has been made on the discussions on a future legally-binding framework and its legal form. If we are to be serious about reaching a balanced and ambitious outcome, which the world expects of us, this matter will require deepened political attention.

The EU has stated that it has a preference for a single legally binding instrument that includes the essential elements of the Kyoto Protocol. The EU has also stated that it is willing to consider a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as part of a wider outcome including the perspective of the global and comprehensive framework engaging all major economies.

Although our preferred option would be the adoption of a legally binding instrument, we know this will not be possible in Durban. We firmly believe that Durban should agree on a mandate with a clear timeline to negotiate a new protocol. Such a framework should, in our view, build upon the Convention, 1/CP.13, 1/CP.16 and the Kyoto Protocol. We see this as very much part of our remit under Cancún to discuss legal options. In order to make progress it is essential that we start to explore what the contents of such a mandate and the legally binding framework need to be.

As agreed in Cancún, our aim is to stay below 2 degrees Celsius, which, until we close the ambition gap, will remain out of reach. Mitigation, including the clarification of pledges, and common accounting framework, must be addressed in Durban. We know that current pledges are insufficient to achieve this objective. This should be recognized and we should all work together to address this ambition gap.

The reports published today by the European Commission and the European Environment Agency highlight the substantial progress the EU and its Member States are making in breaking the link between carbon emissions and economic growth. By 2010 the EU's 27 Member States succeeded in cutting emissions by 15.5% since 1990 while the economy grew by 41% over the same period. However, the EU alone together with a few other parties, will not be able to solve the climate problem.

Fully aware that only global action will enable us to reach our 2 degree goal, and of the need to support developing countries in their efforts to contribute, we in the EU welcome the progress made in the Transitional Committee. We are looking forward to a proposal of an effective design for the Green Climate Fund as an element of an ambitious and balanced outcome in Durban. We invite the Transitional Committee to be ambitious in its further work towards the operationalization of the Fund, by presenting a document that covers all elements included in the terms of reference.

With this in mind, we have advanced in developing a pathway for meeting the commitment of mobilising 100 billion USD by 2020 in the context of meaningful mitigation action. We need to make further progress on identifying sources for long term finance from public finance, including innovative sources, and private finance. Market mechanisms are part of the solution – agreement on new market based mechanisms must be part of the Durban package. They not only make emission reduction efforts economically feasible, but - if designed properly - create opportunities for substantial transfer of funds, capacity and technology. The structure of the common legally binding framework, which we are building here, will not be effective without a robust market based system, which drives the carbon price necessary for low-carbon investment, to achieve the global mitigation objectives.

We also welcome the useful discussions we had on adaptation, capacity building, REDD+ and technology.

Transparency was a key outcome of Cancún and we now need to deliver on this. This means that we need to agree in Durban on guidelines on biennial reports. ICA and IAR also need to be part of this package, as well as progress towards robust accounting rules with provisions on compliance.

Distinguished colleagues,

Just seven weeks remain between now and COP 17 in the Republic of South Africa. Although our time in Panama is drawing to a close, our work and preparations will intensify further. We pledge our continued support to the facilitators and the Chairs to take forward our work. We also welcome the leadership of the incoming COP Presidency, which will be crucial in the next few weeks, and support their continued consultation towards a balanced outcome at Durban. We look forward to the pre-COP meeting in Cape Town and advance on a common understanding of how we can make COP 17 in Durban a success.

Thank you Mr. Chair

Statement delivered in Panama, on 5 October 2011, during the 2nd session of informal, open-ended consultations held by the incoming COP17/CMP7 Presidency

This statement is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

Panama, 5 October 2011

Madame Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The Cancún conference succeeded in adopting a balanced package of decisions – The Cancún Agreements. It proved that the multilateral UN process can deliver meaningful results. We need to build on this outcome, keeping in mind that we are only 53 days before Durban COP17/CMP7 Climate Conference, and we still have a lot to do.

Durban needs to deliver more than just the simple implementation of the Cancún Agreements. It has to take us forward on the outstanding, highly political questions that you have captured so well in your three questions.

Implementation of Cancún must include full operationalization of the Technology Mechanism, the Adaptation Framework with Adaptation Committee as well as the Green Climate Fund which, in the near future, should play an enabling role for adaptation and mitigation.

We also need the perspective in the coming years that we are moving as quickly as possible towards a strong, rule based system with the participation of everybody that builds on what we have. This new framework should include a top-down approach and be of a legally binding nature providing legal certainty, predictability and effectiveness. The architecture of Kyoto Protocol gives us rules which need to be preserved and further strengthened in order to assure environmental integrity.

The European Union has always demonstrated our strong commitment to the Kyoto Protocol. Our legislation has been developed on the basis of the KP. It is now part of our laws – our *acquis*. The EU's climate policy of emission reductions, especially the EU Emission Trading Scheme is built on KP rules. We have, time and again, declared our willingness to consider the second Commitment Period and our political will is strong.

But, no group of countries alone is able to solve the climate change problem. The second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol alone will not solve this problem either. With the US rejecting, the Russian Federation, Canada and Japan declaring that they would choose different approaches, the European Union with a number of other countries who are still considering the second commitment period would only be responsible for less than 16% of global greenhouse gases emissions. The 2 deg target cannot be secured if the EU along with only a few others were the only group of parties ready to commit.

Let me reiterate the EU's willingness to consider a second commitment period as part of a wider outcome, where balance is maintained and essential decisions are made both on process and substance in both tracks. Certain improvements of the Kyoto Protocol, like on LULUCF, carry-over and market mechanisms, in order to preserve its environmental integrity and economic efficiency will need to be a part of a successful Durban outcome.

The level of ambition is among key issues to be addressed. The 2 deg objective will not be secured if the ambition gap is not filled with meaningful commitments and actions by all parties. The consequences of letting the warming go beyond 2 deg would be devastating for the whole World, especially for the most vulnerable – LDCs, the African countries, small island states. We understand it very well, and we need a decision in Durban to acknowledge the scale of the gap and begin to set out options and a process on how to collectively close this gap.

We strongly believe that everybody should engage in negotiating a multi-lateral comprehensive legally binding framework. We need this clear perspective as a necessary element of a Balanced Durban Package. A decision on a road map in Durban can provide such a clear perspective of how and when all parties, including all major economies, would engage in the process and contribute. Strong accounting rules must also apply to those that are not committing under a second commitment period. This will be crucial for assuring transparency and comparability of efforts and their results. The guidelines for biennial reports should be agreed in Durban to enable the review process to be concluded by 2015. This review will answer the question of adequacy of the 2 deg target.

We need and will strongly support the leadership of the incoming South African COP Presidency, and this consultation should be continued as it will lay the foundation for a successful COP17/CMP7. After Panama session, the Pre COP meeting in Cape Town will offer us another opportunity to consider these key issues.

Madame Ambassador

Let me reiterate. The EU will support your efforts and is ready to use every remaining day before Durban to ensure a successful outcome. The public outside this room is expecting this from the multilateral process.
