



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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ONU 157
DEVGEN 352
ENER 411
FORETS 90
FISC 171
TRANS 367**

INFORMATION NOTE

from : General Secretariat

to : Delegations

Subject : United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):
17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17), 7th session of the
Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto
Protocol (CMP 7), 35th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation
(SBI 35) and of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
(SBSTA 35), 16th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further
Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 16) and
14th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action
under the Convention (AWG-LCA 14)
(Durban, 28 November – 9 December 2011)
= Compilation of EU statements

Please find attached for information the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States during COP 17, CMP 7, SB 35, AWG-KP 16, AWG-LCA 14 and the High-Level Segment.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia have associated themselves with these statements.

Turkey has associated itself with the following statements:

- SBSTA 35: closing statement
 - SBI 33: closing statement
 - High Level Segment: opening statement
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Opening statement for COP 17

Opening plenary on 28 November 2011

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

We would first like to express our deep sorrow for the loss of Mama Konaté, our SBSTA Chair and Mali's National Focal Point. We will surely miss him and his guidance during these deliberations.

Excellency, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

Science tells us that the opportunity to keep the below 2°C objective within reach is closing faster than previously expected. This has been recently confirmed by the World Energy Outlook issued by the International Energy Agency. In addition, the latest UNEP gap analysis tells us that current pledges could only take us half-way to our below 2°C objective. With this in mind, the recent IPCC Report on vulnerabilities further confirmed the likely impacts of uncontrolled climate change, notably on most vulnerable countries.

Cancún was a success, it proved that multilateralism, within the UN framework, can deliver. We sent a clear message that despite all obstacles, the global community is treating climate change as a priority and stands ready to act. We agreed on a common objective of limiting climate change to less than 2°C, we agreed to work further on transparency but also to develop a framework for REDD actions. We also agreed to some crucial institutional arrangements – we established a Green Climate Fund and agreed to operationalise it and we established the Cancún Adaptation Framework and a Technology Mechanism. Moreover, many countries pledged specific actions to reduce emissions – an important milestone in the process of curbing global emissions which now need to be implemented. But Cancún was only a stepping stone towards a solution which would ensure that our environmental objective is met.

Durban must be the place where we will step up to the challenge we face.

We clearly need to deliver on what we agreed last year. This is a must. But we also need to move beyond this and address those issues that will be necessary to achieve the 2°C objective. This includes addressing the "gap" that we currently see in the global level of ambition of emission reduction actions put forward by all Parties. This also means paving the way to a common international accounting system so we can truly keep track of what everyone is doing.

Moreover, the EU and its Member States strongly believe that it is here and now that we must initiate a process that will aim at delivering a new global, comprehensive and legally binding framework with all countries on board, guaranteeing legal certainty, predictability and the necessary level playing field. This is why Durban should agree on a process geared towards such an objective, building upon what we have already achieved, namely:

- the Kyoto Protocol,
- the elements set out in Bali and agreed in Cancún,
- the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as applied in the light of today's realities, capacities and responsibilities

For the EU, negotiations for such a framework should be completed by 2015 so it can enter into force as soon as possible. Such an approach would allow us to take full account of the review process, and thereby allow for the necessary consistency between science and decision-making. We cannot afford to wait.

We need to leave Durban with the reassurance that this is the direction this process is taking us. It is in this context of a global roadmap, that we are open to a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. The EU is, as ever, strongly attached to the Kyoto Protocol and is hopeful that the COP/MOP will deliver agreement on improved Kyoto rules so as to maintain a high level of environmental integrity and expand on them with new tools such as new market-based mechanisms. We definitely believe that the Kyoto Protocol has a key role to play in the transition towards a global framework with all on board. But Kyoto in itself, all the more so with a limited participation, will not be sufficient to keep us on track – so a global roadmap is a must.

In addition, Durban should address issues that are of increasingly high importance for climate change such as in particular the establishment of a new market-based mechanism, agriculture, and international aviation and maritime sector.

The EU also remains committed in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation to jointly mobilize 100 billion USD per year by 2020. The EU recognizes the need to work on the identification of sources on the basis of all relevant reports. Furthermore the EU looks forward to operationalising the Green Climate Fund on the basis of the Transitional Committee report as an element of a balanced package in Durban.

I would also like to note that India has proposed to deal with a number of issues under new COP agenda items. We hope we can all agree there is space in the current negotiations to deal with these issues as necessary.

Madame President, we remain optimistic as to the outcome of this African COP. Our positive attitude stems from the leadership and commitment you and your government demonstrated this year and the EU stands ready to support you in this continued leadership during the next two weeks of negotiation. During the numerous meetings and consultations under your leadership, Parties were able to explore common ground and build confidence.

We put our continued trust in both the Presidency and the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and AWGs to deliver their work to ensure the success of Durban.

It is now up to us all to make the best use of this progress, show flexibility and respect each other's ambitions. The EU stands ready and willing to work with the other Parties in a constructive manner to secure a balanced, future-looking outcome we cannot leave Durban without. This is what the fight against climate change calls for.

Opening statement for CMP 7

Opening plenary on 28 November 2011

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

We would first like to express our deep sorrow for the loss of Mama Konaté, our SBSTA Chair and Mali's National Focal Point. We will surely miss him and his guidance during these deliberations.

Excellency, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

Science tells us that the opportunity to keep the below 2°C objective within reach is closing faster than previously expected. This has been recently confirmed by the World Energy Outlook issued by the International Energy Agency. In addition, the latest UNEP gap analysis tell us that current pledges could only take us half way to our below 2°C objective. With this in mind, the recent IPCC Report on vulnerabilities further confirmed the likely impacts of uncontrolled climate change, notably on most vulnerable countries.

The EU is keen to secure progress to keep global average temperature increase below 2°Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. With this in mind, the EU is more convinced than ever that a multilateral, strong and ambitious rules-based system with broad participation, notably from major economies, is urgently needed.

As a key step in this direction, the EU is open to the Kyoto Protocol playing an important role in the transition towards a global, comprehensive and legally binding framework for all, in line with the dynamic principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The negotiations of this framework should start immediately and be completed by 2015. In a broader outlook, we need reassurances that we can build on the essential elements of the Kyoto Protocol and the valuable experience we had with its implementation.

More specifically, the EU is open to a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as part of a transition to a wider legally binding framework, provided that there is:

- an agreement for a robust roadmap with a clear timeline for a new legally binding framework engaging all Parties, and
- improving the environmental integrity of the Protocol and ensuring the provision of new market mechanisms.

The Kyoto Protocol is the only international climate agreement with legally-binding emission reduction targets. It has proved to work and we believe that the essentials of the Kyoto Protocol, as further improved and expanded, have to play a key role in the transition to a wider legally-binding framework. But let's be clear that a second commitment period with only a very limited number of Parties participating is clearly insufficient to solve the problem of climate change. A limited outcome in isolation from what the rest of the world would agree to engage in would be inconsistent with our environmental objectives and would be politically unacceptable to our leaders.

The EU is ready to engage in discussing the key outstanding issues, such as finding consensus on the form and content of a second commitment period, including exploring options that could provide a workable alternative to full ratification by the beginning of 2013, clarifying Annex I commitments and level of ambition, ensuring continuity of the rules-based system, with clarity on the rules that will apply after 2012, ensuring continuity of the market based mechanisms and addressing other aspects of a limited CP2 participation.

In addition to preserving the essential elements of the Kyoto Protocol, its environmental integrity needs to be guaranteed and its architecture must be further enhanced, including on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), surplus of Assigned Amount Units (AAUs) and market-based mechanisms.

A possible second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol should last no longer than 2020 and be compatible with the timeline for the development and entry into force of a future global and comprehensive legally-binding framework engaging all Parties.

The EU is looking forward to making progress with other important agenda items including issues related to the Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Implementation and the Adaptation Fund.

In Durban we must ensure balanced progress and robust outcomes within and across both the Kyoto Protocol and Convention tracks in order move towards this outcome.

To conclude, if we can achieve this, the African COP/CMP in Durban will serve as a reference point for the fight against climate change. This should be our common objective if we want to be consistent with what we agreed to last year in Cancun, namely to work together to limit the increase of global temperature to less than two degrees Celsius.

Opening statement for AWG - KP 16

Opening plenary on 29 November 2011

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

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

Science tells us that the opportunity to keep the below 2°C objective within reach is closing faster than previously expected. This has been recently confirmed by the World Energy Outlook issued by the International Energy Agency. In addition, the latest UNEP gap analysis tells us that current pledges could only take us half-way to our below 2°C objective. With this in mind, the recent IPCC Report on vulnerabilities further confirmed the likely impacts of uncontrolled climate change, notably on most vulnerable countries.

We don't need to look far to see these impacts. Just two days ago a serious storm took the lives of several people right here in Durban. This is a cause for sorrow and concern.

Mr. Chair, the EU is keen to secure progress to keep global average temperature increase below 2°Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. With this in mind, the EU is more convinced than ever that a multilateral, strong and ambitious rules-based system with broad participation, notably from major economies, is urgently needed.

As a key step in this direction, the EU is open to the Kyoto Protocol playing an important role in the transition towards a global, comprehensive and legally binding framework for all, in line with the dynamic principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The negotiations of this framework should start immediately and be completed by 2015. In a broader outlook, we need reassurances that we can build on the essential elements of the Kyoto Protocol and the valuable experience we had with its implementation.

More specifically, the EU is open to a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as part of a transition to a wider legally binding framework, provided that there is:

- an agreement for a robust roadmap with a clear timeline for a new legally binding framework engaging all Parties, and
- improving the environmental integrity of the Protocol and ensuring the provision of new market mechanisms.

The Kyoto Protocol is the only international climate agreement with legally-binding emission reduction targets. It has proved to work and we believe that the essentials of the Kyoto Protocol, as further improved and expanded, have to play a key role in the transition to a wider legally-binding framework. But let's be clear that a second commitment period with only a very limited number of Parties participating is clearly insufficient to solve the problem of climate change. A limited outcome in isolation from what the rest of the world would agree to engage in would be inconsistent with our environmental objectives and would be politically unacceptable to our leaders.

The EU is ready to engage in discussing the key outstanding issues, such as finding consensus on the form and content of a second commitment period, including exploring options that could provide a workable alternative to full ratification by the beginning of 2013, clarifying Annex I commitments and level of ambition, ensuring continuity of the rules-based system, with clarity on the rules that will apply after 2012, ensuring continuity of the market based mechanisms and addressing other aspects of a limited CP2 participation.

In addition to preserving the essential elements of the Kyoto Protocol, its environmental integrity needs to be guaranteed and its architecture must be further enhanced, including on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), surplus of Assigned Amount Units (AAUs) and market-based mechanisms.

A possible second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol should last no longer than 2020 and be compatible with the timeline for the development and entry into force of a future global and comprehensive legally-binding framework engaging all Parties.

In Durban we must ensure balanced progress and robust outcomes within and across both the Kyoto Protocol and Convention tracks in order move towards this outcome.

To conclude, if we can achieve this, the African COP/CMP in Durban will serve as a reference point for the fight against climate change. This should be our common objective if we want to be consistent with what we agreed to last year in Cancun, namely to work together to limit the increase of global temperature to less than two degrees Celsius.

Opening statement for AWG - LCA 14

Opening plenary on 29 November 2011

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

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

Science tells us that the opportunity to keep the below 2°C objective within reach is closing faster than previously expected. This has been recently confirmed by the World Energy Outlook issued by the International Energy Agency. In addition, the latest UNEP gap analysis tells us that current pledges could only take us half-way to our below 2°C objective. With this in mind, the recent IPCC Report on vulnerabilities further confirmed the likely impacts of uncontrolled climate change, notably on most vulnerable countries.

We don't need to look far to see these impacts. Just two days ago a serious storm took the lives of several people right here in Durban. This is a cause for sorrow and concern.

Mr. Chair, Cancún was a success, it proved that multilateralism, within the UN framework, can deliver. We sent a clear message that despite all obstacles, the global community is treating climate change as a priority and stands ready to act. We agreed on a common objective of limiting climate change to less than 2°C, we agreed to work further on transparency but also to develop a framework for REDD actions. We also agreed to some crucial institutional arrangements – we established a Green Climate Fund and agreed to operationalise it and we established the Cancún Adaptation Framework and a Technology Mechanism. Moreover, many countries pledged specific actions to reduce emissions – an important milestone in the process of curbing global emissions which now need to be implemented. But Cancún was only a stepping stone towards a solution which would ensure that our environmental objective is met.

Durban must be the place where we will step up to the challenge we face.

We clearly need to deliver on what we agreed last year. This is a must. But we also need to move beyond this and address those issues that will be necessary to achieve the 2°C objective. This includes addressing the "gap" that we currently see in the global level of ambition of emission reduction actions put forward by all Parties. This also means paving the way to a common international accounting system so we can truly keep track of what everyone is doing.

Moreover, the EU and its Member States strongly believe that it is here and now that we must initiate a process that will aim at delivering a new global, comprehensive and legally binding framework with all countries on board, guaranteeing legal certainty, predictability and the necessary level playing field. This is why Durban should agree on a process geared towards such an objective, building upon what we have already achieved, namely:

- the Kyoto Protocol,
- the elements set out in Bali and agreed in Cancún,
- the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as applied in the light of today's realities, capacities and responsibilities

For the EU, negotiations for such a framework should be completed by 2015 so it can enter into force as soon as possible. Such an approach would allow us to take full account of the review process, and thereby allow for the necessary consistency between science and decision-making. We cannot afford to wait.

We need to leave Durban with the reassurance that this is the direction this process is taking us. It is in this context of a global roadmap, that we are open to a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. The EU is, as ever, strongly attached to the Kyoto Protocol and is hopeful that the COP/MOP will deliver agreement on improved Kyoto rules so as to maintain a high level of environmental integrity and expand on them with new tools such as new market-based mechanisms. We definitely believe that the Kyoto Protocol has a key role to play in the transition towards a global framework with all on board. But Kyoto in itself, all the more so with a limited participation, will not be sufficient to keep us on track – so a global roadmap is a must. EU has made clear that a second period under the Kyoto Protocol in isolation would be insufficient to meet the challenge ahead of us. We ourselves represent only 11% of global emissions – we need the rest of the world on board in a legally-binding manner.

In addition, Durban should address issues that are of increasingly high importance for climate change such as in particular the establishment of a new market-based mechanism, agriculture, and international aviation and maritime sector.

Last year we also set up a framework for transparency and trust building as a means for reaching the long term climate objective. It is essential that we leave Durban with clear decisions on the biannual reports and the IAR and ICA process.

Durban must also deliver on these issues, as part of a balanced package covering also means of implementation, such as adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity-building.

The EU also remains committed in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation to jointly mobilize 100 billion USD per year by 2020. The EU recognizes the need to work on the identification of sources on the basis of all relevant reports. Furthermore the EU looks forward to operationalising the Green Climate Fund on the basis of the Transitional Committee report as an element of a balanced package in Durban.

Mr. Chair, It is now up to us all to make the best use of this progress, show flexibility and respect each other's ambitions. The EU stands ready and willing to work with the other Parties in a constructive manner to secure a balanced, future-looking outcome we cannot leave Durban without. This is what the fight against climate change calls for.

Statements for SBSTA 35

Opening Plenary on 28 November 2011

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

Mr. Chair, distinguished Colleagues, dear Friends,

It is our sincere regret that Mama Konaté is not here with us today, the EU would like to extend its condolences to the members of the Delegation of Mali, his family and friends.

During the last SBSTA session in Bonn we had much fruitful discussion on many important items. We welcome you on the position of the SBSTA chair and assure you that EU is looking forward to co-operate with you and will fully support your efforts in the successful concluding of the Durban deliberations.

The SBSTA has to deal with a lot of important issues here in Durban over a short period of time. Among these the EU wishes to highlight:

- The need to define the future of the Nairobi Work Programme. The joint SBI-SBSTA in-session workshop should enhance implementation of the NWP which needs to be made more relevant for practitioners.
- The Research dialogue has provided an opportunity for all Parties to interact with leading climate change scientists and therefore enhance understanding of scientific issues that have policy relevance. A COP decision is required to provide guidance for its development and enhance this process.
- The need to conclude the work on the *Revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention* with a view of adoption of a COP decision for its voluntary trial by Annex I Parties.

The EU believes that with your guidance, Mr. Chair, and the necessary cooperation between Parties, SBSTA 35 in Durban will handle the all agenda items in a satisfactory manner.

Closing Plenary on 3 December 2011

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

Mr. Chair, distinguished Colleagues, dear Friends,

The EU would like to thank the co-Chairs and the Secretariat for their hard work as well as the engagement of participating parties for their valuable contributions to the discussions we had over the past week.

Recognizing that much remains to be done to enhance the understanding of vulnerability and adaptation to the impacts of climate change, the EU welcomes the draft decision on the Nairobi Work Programme dedicated to that matter. This week discussions provided for Parties an opportunity to share their views to develop a common understanding on this very important issue. These elements seem to be a useful basis for moving further for the next phase of the programme as one of the key elements strengthening the capacities of countries, especially the least developed ones to respond to their adaptation needs.

The EU takes note of the draft decision on modalities for REDD+ reference levels but regrets the SBSTA outcome so far has not fully built on the progress achieved in Cancun. We would have welcomed better guidance on the operationalization of social and environmental safeguards and look forward further improvements as regards the assessment of performance under REDD+ activities.

The EU recognizes the progress made on development and transfer of technology, welcomes the launching of the Technology Executive Committee and is looking forward to the rolling work programme being presented at the next session.

The EU welcomes the draft decision on developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention. In the light of the success of activities undertaken under the SBSTA research dialogue so far, the EU believes that further considerable progress in utilizing the research dialogue as a forum for substantial activities relating to climate change may be obtained.

The EU wishes to see the continuation of this constructive dialogue with a view to finalizing the draft modalities and procedures on the inclusion of CCS in the CDM in a safe and responsible manner whilst ensuring maximum environmental integrity. As such, we kindly request that the Chair and COP Presidency facilitate the advancement of this dialogue amongst parties.

Although we have had a lot of substantive and progressive discussions this week, not all the agenda items have been addressed in a satisfactory manner. Among these our work on the *Revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention* concluded with a draft text containing a few outstanding issues not resolved during the informal consultations.

We believe that the outcomes of this SBSTA session will provide sound basis for concluding the remaining work.

Mr Chair, the EU wishes to thank you for your great efforts in steering the SBSTA discussions.

Distinguished Colleagues, thank you for constructive discussions in the spirit of understanding of our common better future.

Statements for SBI 33

Opening plenary on 28 November 2011

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

We would first like to express our deep sorrow for the loss of Mama Konaté, our SBSTA Chair and Mali's National Focal Point. We will surely miss him and his guidance during these deliberations.

Excellency, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

Much substantive groundwork has been laid to prepare for a successful Durban outcome.

In Bonn, we managed to further our discussions on a number of topics. Much, however, remains to be addressed. The challenge for the SBI is to prepare the ground for the new regime and the additional demands in particular in view of issues such as MRV, Capacity building, technology and adaptation. To facilitate the transition to the new regime, special emphasis needs to be placed on securing the meaningful provisions for Capacity Building. In this context we need of course to mirror the developments and progress made under the LCA track as these two tracks are increasingly intertwined.

The EU stands ready to constructively engage in the negotiations with other Parties and work towards reaching consensus. We support the Agenda for SBI 35 proposed by the Chair and look forward to engaging in the discussions on substance as swiftly as possible.

The EU would like to highlight a number of issues we deem important for the SBI work in the coming week.

- With respect to Annex I Communications: we would like to stress that the EU is respecting its commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, including on technology and finance. The most recent EU emissions data show that we are fully on track to reach our Kyoto Protocol objectives.
- Regarding non-Annex I national communications, the EU stands ready to ensure that adequate support be provided to developing countries for the preparation of their national communication and biennial reports, as well as to keep supporting the CGE activities.
- However, we remain concerned that an agenda item linked to the non-Annex I national communications remains in abeyance. Given the plethora of reports that have recently been submitted by non-Annex I Parties, we would like to see a synthesis and compilation document be prepared by the UNFCCC Secretariat.

- On issues related to response measures we are seeking common space for discussions and not the establishment of new institutions. In that respect it is important to draw on our practical experiences, both positive and negative, so as to increase our knowledge on the social and economic impact of climate policies.
- With respect to the issue of national adaptation planning, our aim should be to agree on a decision on the LDC process and its guidelines and modalities building upon experiences already gathered.
- The EU looks forward to continuing to implement the loss and damage provisions as agreed to last year. We must find common ground on further activities for the work program, which should improve the understanding of the risks and impacts of climate change and provide an overview of good practices and policies in addressing loss and damage.
- In order to make the Technology Mechanism fully operational by 2012 this SBI session can deliver important contributions such as guidance on the work program, guidance for the financial mechanism and seeking synergies with the low carbon development strategies.

During our June meeting in Bonn the SBI agreed on steps to increase the participation of the observer organizations in the UNFCCC process. The EU noted with satisfaction the positive effects of that work in Panama and we look forward to the continuation of these practices here in Durban.

Mister Chair, I would like to say that the European Union looks forward to working with you and all the Parties to make the best use of our time at this meeting.

During this Durban meeting the EU seeks to conclude as many tasks as possible from the Bali Action Plan and the Cancun Agreements. Our work during COP 17 should lead us to the agreement on a Durban Roadmap to a legally binding global framework under the LCA. In our view it is the future mission of the SBI to take forward the remaining technical work that is needed for the prospective climate regime.

Closing plenary on 3 December 2011

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

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

The European Union has come to Durban to get results – results that take the fight against climate change a considerable step forward.

We are happy to see the substantive progress that has been made in our deliberations here this week. However we also recognize that a lot of work remains to be done if we are to ensure that Durban delivers on its promise.

The EU and its Member States therefore call upon all the Parties to see the closing of the SBs as a pit stop at the start of the High Level Segment - an opportunity to reflect and pick up speed for the days to come. The conclusions provide a basis for taking our work further on both negotiation tracks, but we must remain focused and disciplined and respect the procedures agreed regarding the conduct of these negotiations.

At the closing of this session we would like to make the following comments on the conclusions under your guidance Mr. Chair:

With respect to adaptation. The EU is encouraged by the spirit of compromise in which the discussions took place.

We are pleased with the constructive approach in discussions on technology development and transfer and on capacity building. Particularly in view of capacity building there is the need to ensure that all parties have the necessary means to continue the implementation of the Cancun decisions.

On response measures, we particularly welcome the special event since it focused on substance and highlighted the need for a paradigm shift in thinking about this important topic. We wish to emphasize that the response measures discussion must be streamlined and should address not only social and economic impacts but also the full range of benefits and opportunities resulting from climate policies.

With respect to the budget performance 2010-2011, we appreciate particularly the report on planned efficiency gains for the biennium 2012-2013. It is the first step to continuously and systematically increase efficiency across all programmes in an enhanced "culture of innovation". Considering the current economic situation in the EU, all expenditures need to be justified to budget authorities, based on results and deliverables. In this respect verifying improvements will be very pertinent.

The parallelism between the different tracks poses challenges to all parties. We must be mindful of the interconnectedness between different issues – this is especially true when looking at ensuring balanced support to the new work streams and institutions stemming from COP 16 in Cancun. The discussions on the financial mechanisms under the convention are a good case in point in this respect.

Despite these positive developments we would have welcomed more progress on national communications. However, we are confident that convergence on these matters can be found during the next SBI session and we appreciate the positive engagement from the Parties on the issue.

The National Adaptation Planning process is another item where Parties' positions still need to be discussed in further details before true consensus can emerge. For the EU this is a key deliverable and we encourage all our partners to redouble their efforts to reach conclusions here in Durban.

We remain confident that the outcomes of this SBI session will provide a sound basis for concluding the remaining work.

For the EU Durban has to bring closure to as many tasks as possible from the Bali Action Plan and the Cancun Agreements. Our work during COP 17 should lead us to the agreement on a Durban Roadmap to a legally binding global framework under the Convention. The remaining technical work that is needed for the prospective climate regime should, in our view, be taken forward by the SBI.

Finally, the EU wishes to thank you Mr. Chair for your tireless efforts and particular flair in steering the SBI discussions during the past years and we wish you continued success in your future undertakings.

Statement for Joint High-level segment of COP 17 and CMP 7

Opening plenary on 6 December 2011

Statement at the opening of the high-level segment of COP17 by Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action

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

Madame President, ministers, ladies and gentlemen!

In some corners of the COP we have heard the argument that we do not need decisions on the future here in Durban. It is said that for the next years we should implement – AND spend some more years thinking.

Europe believes that the world has had a lot of time to think. What we need is not more thinking. What we need is more action. We would lament if this conference was remembered only for discussions and delay. We would like the 'D' in Durban to be a 'D' for decisions and delivery.

We must deliver. Deliver on what we have already agreed in Cancun and decide on further progress. We need progress on the gap between the 2 degrees ambition and current pledges. We need progress on transparency and finance and we must include the sectors that are still not covered. And most importantly we need to decide on the way forward to a new, comprehensive legally binding global agreement.

If there is one thing we have learned in Europe, it is this: Targets work. And pricing works. That is why we need a strong international framework. Only then can we bring the actions to the scale we need with the speed we need.

Europe is ready to decide and deliver. Our legislation is built on Kyoto principles. We will over-achieve on our Kyoto commitment. We have a 20 percent target for 2020. And we are ready to go to 30 percent, provided others are also ambitious. But Europe only accounts for 11 percent of global emissions.

The Convention and the Kyoto Protocol continue to be the foundation of our international regime. However, they were both crafted in the 20th century. A future regime needs to reflect the reality of the new century, and the reality is that the countries that were industrialised countries back in 1992 account for a rapidly decreasing share of emissions. Therefore, in order to tackle effectively the challenge in the 21st century all major economies need to commit.

We understand that some are not ready for that right now. This is why the EU has put a significant offer on the table. Even if others are not, we are ready to take a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Now. We do this in order to preserve what it took us all so many years to agree upon. But we must be reassured that others will join us in a new legally binding framework after that second commitment period and WHEN they will. This is why we insist on an agreement to a roadmap for future action from all other parties here.

With these words I will give the floor to Minister Korolec from Poland.

**Statement at the opening of the high-level segment of COP17
by Marcin Korolec, Minister of the Environment, President of the Council of the European Union**

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

Madame President, distinguished colleagues,

We came to Durban with a very specific goal: to build on our decisions from the past years and to reassure ourselves, that as a global community, we are serious about moving towards the 2 degrees objective. Implementing last year's decisions will be key, but we need to go further. This year we need to agree to a clear vision of where we are going and how we will get there.

Ladies and gentlemen, Madam President, we need a roadmap. A roadmap, reassuring us that work towards a global, comprehensive and legally binding framework for all will start now. The chance to reach the 2 degree objective is getting smaller as time passes and we need to start this process today.

Let us be very clear: this roadmap is not meant to change the Convention. We need to build on what we have achieved thus far: the Kyoto Protocol, Bali, Cancún and the dynamic principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

As a key step in this direction, the EU is open to a ratifiable second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as part of a transition to a wider regime. At the same time, its environmental integrity needs to be guaranteed and its architecture must be further enhanced. Moreover a second commitment period with only a very limited number of Parties cannot be an excuse for inaction for a long period of time. A limited outcome in isolation from what the rest of the world would agree to engage in would be inconsistent with our environmental objectives and would be politically unacceptable.

Ladies and gentlemen, let there be no confusion: without prompt, ambitious and global action, the 2 degree goal will not be met. Delaying work towards a robust global system, which we urgently need, does not make sense. We need it established by 2015 and have it enter into force as soon as possible thereafter.

In the meantime, we expect nothing less than the full implementation of countries' actions pledged in Copenhagen and anchored in Cancún. We need a robust MRV to ensure transparency of these actions and build trust.

Madame President, distinguished colleagues,

We need to ensure that through our decisions this week, we take a further step towards the establishment of an ambitious and global regime. This African COP in Durban needs to serve as a reference point for the fight against climate change.