



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Council conclusions on EU Climate Diplomacy

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At its meeting on 24 June 2013, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted the Conclusions on EU Climate Diplomacy annexed to this note.

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**Council Conclusions on EU climate diplomacy**

1. Climate change is a decisive global challenge which, if not urgently managed, will put at risk not only the environment but also world economic prosperity, development and, more broadly, stability and security. The transition towards safe and sustainable low-carbon economy and society as well as climate resilient and resource efficient growth patterns worldwide are of paramount importance. Addressing the risk-multiplying threats of a changing climate, including potential conflict and instability, related to reliable access to food, water and energy, requires effective foreign policy responses at the global and EU level, as recognised in the European Security Strategy.
2. Recalling its conclusions of July 2011 on EU Climate Diplomacy and the Joint Reflection Paper from the High Representative and the Commission ("Towards a renewed and strengthened European Union Climate Diplomacy"), the Council welcomes the implementation steps taken collaboratively by all EU actors. The Council welcomes the continued activities to build awareness and capacities to tackle the strategic and security dimensions of climate change, including at the level of the UN Security Council, and takes note of the increasing engagement of Member States and partner countries in those efforts. The Council further welcomes the joined-up approach taken towards EU climate diplomacy, including through the strengthened role of the EU Green Diplomacy Network, that is contributing to strengthening the EU voice and efforts internationally in the fight against climate change.

3. The Council welcomes the positive results of the Durban and Doha climate conferences and acknowledges that a large number of countries, including major economies, but also middle and low income countries, representing all together more than 80% of global emissions, have meanwhile decided to undertake domestic emissions reductions. This represents a valuable starting point and shows that climate action is picking up speed in many countries. However, today's ambition level is still far from sufficient to limit global average temperature increases to less than 2°C from the pre-industrial level; recent authoritative reports from the IPCC and other institutions such as the World Bank<sup>1</sup>, demonstrate the devastating consequences of current emission trends if left unchecked. To this end, the Council looks forward to the IPCC 5th Assessment Report.
  
4. Tackling climate change urgently, through mitigation and adaptation measures, is not only an environmental imperative but also, fundamentally, a necessary condition for peace and security, development and prosperity. Climate change threatens our social and economic well-being and financial capacities and could lead to increasing losses of individual lives and property as well as to considerable risks for sustainable development. Managing climate change represents a central challenge for sustainable development and it must be taken into account, in the overarching post-2015 agenda which should set out a single comprehensive and coherent framework that is supportive to the work of the UNFCCC.

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<sup>1</sup> "Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided"

5. The Council emphasises that UN climate negotiations have now entered a decisive phase towards a new single global legally binding climate agreement, applicable to all, that needs to be adopted by 2015 for it to enter into force by 2020 at the latest. The Council equally emphasises the need to advance work at the international level to close, as quickly as possible, the gap in the level of mitigation ambition in the period up to 2020 with a view to ensuring sufficient mitigation efforts by all Parties to limit global average temperature increases to less than 2°C from the pre-industrial level. Time is short and all efforts should be deployed to support this process by the EU and its Member States; there is a distinctive role for the EU and national diplomatic networks in promoting that partner countries adopt the domestic frameworks necessary to an ambitious global agreement.
6. These challenges undoubtedly call for a more pro-active and targeted EU climate diplomacy agenda aimed at maximising our collective efforts and further enhancing the EU climate voice internationally while remaining open for dialogue and cooperation. It will be necessary to build on the success achieved in Durban and Doha and to raise the profile of the climate challenge in political dialogues, intensifying outreach and cooperation activities with a wide range of countries and stakeholders, across government as well as within business and civil society, both to promote conclusion of a new climate agreement by 2015 and to encourage progressive and ambitious action by all to reduce global emissions from today on.

7. In light of these pressing challenges, the Council recognises the need to further step up EU climate diplomacy efforts and welcomes the concrete steps laid out in the reflection paper jointly prepared by the High Representative and the Commission "An EU climate diplomacy for 2015 and beyond", notably the idea of developing a toolbox for EU climate diplomacy, with general and region and/or partner-specific messages in the run-up to 2015 and beyond. The Council therefore invites the High Representative and the Commission, in their respective role and competence, coordinating and working closely with Member States, to deploy EU climate diplomacy as identified in the joint reflection paper, including notably through joint and mutually reinforcing initiatives on the three strands of action. The Council also emphasises that energy security should be part of EU climate outreach.
8. The Council underlines the importance of mainstreaming climate diplomacy into EU and Member States' priority agendas and making even more use of diplomatic networks to promote joint efforts combating climate change. Constructive dialogue and cooperation with our partners in order to mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases, to switch to greener paths of energy production and other economic activities and to adapt to climate change in a conflict-sensitive manner are all important tasks for 21<sup>st</sup> century foreign services.
9. The Council foresees to review progress on an annual basis.