



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



16454/09 (Presse 346)

PRESS RELEASE

2977th Council meeting

Environment

Brussels, 23 November 2009

President **Mr Andreas CARLGREN**
Minister for the Environment of Sweden

P R E S S

Main results of the Council

*The Council discussed preparations for the **Copenhagen climate conference** (7-18 December), which will work on a global climate change regime to come into force when the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012. The Council confirmed the existing EU position for the Copenhagen talks and underlined the need for the EU to show leadership at the conference.*

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¹ Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks. Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>). Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

PARTICIPANTS

The governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Ms Evelyne HUYTEBROECK

Minister of the Brussels Capital Regional Government,
with responsibility for the Environment, Energy and Water
Policy

Bulgaria:

Ms Nona KARADJOVA

Minister for the Environment and Water

Czech Republic:

Mr Ladislav MIKO

Minister for the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Troels Lund POULSEN

Minister for the Environment

Ms Connie HEDEGAARD

Minister for Climate and Energy

Germany:

Mr Norbert RÖTTGEN

Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Estonia:

Mr Jaanus TAMKIVI

Minister for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr John GORMLEY

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local
Government

Greece:

Ms Konstantina BIRBILI

Minister for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change

Spain:

Ms Elena ESPINOSA MANGANA

Minister for the Environment and the Rural and Marine
Environment

France:

Mr Jean-Louis BORLOO

Ministre d'État, Minister for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable
Development and Marine Affairs, responsible for green
technologies and climate negotiations

Italy:

Ms Stefania PRESTIGIACOMO

Minister for the Environment, the Protection of Natural
Resources and the Sea

Cyprus:

Ms Egly PANTELAKIS

Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture,
Natural Resources and Environment

Latvia:

Mr Raimonds VĒJONIS

Minister for the Environment

Lithuania:

Mr Gediminas KAZLAUSKAS

Minister for the Environment

Luxembourg:

Mr Claude WISELER

Minister for the Civil Service and Administrative Reform,
Minister for Public Works

Mr Marco SCHANK

Minister for Accommodation, Minister of State for
Sustainable Development

Hungary:

Mr István KLING

State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Water

Malta:

Mr George PULLICINO

Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs

Netherlands:

Ms Jacqueline CRAMER

Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and the
Environment

Austria:

Mr Nikolaus BERLAKOVICH

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment
and Water Management**Poland:**

Mr Maciej NOWICKI

Mr Piotr SERAFIN

Minister for the Environment
Deputy State Secretary, Office of the Committee for
European Integration**Portugal:**

Ms Dulce PASSARO

Minister for the Environment and Regional Planning

Romania:

Ms Ioana BIVOLARU

Acting Deputy Permanent Representative

Slovenia:

Mr Karl Viktor ERJAVEC

Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning

Slovakia:

Mr Jozef MEDVEĎ

Minister for the Environment

Finland:

Ms Paula LEHTOMÄKI

Minister for the Environment

Sweden:

Mr Andreas CARLGREN

Ms Åsa-Britt KARLSSON

Minister for the Environment
State Secretary to the Minister for the Environment**United Kingdom:**

Mr Edward MILIBAND

Mr Stewart STEVENSON

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change
(Scottish Government)**Commission:**

Mr Stavros DIMAS

Member

ITEMS DEBATED**CLIMATE CHANGE: PREPARING FOR THE COPENHAGEN CLIMATE CONFERENCE**

The Council discussed preparations for the Copenhagen climate conference (7-18 December).

The Council was first briefed on various aspects of the ongoing international talks for a new international climate protection regime for the period from 2013. President of the Copenhagen meeting Danish minister Connie Hedegaard, Polish minister Maciej Nowicki and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer spoke about the path to the international climate conference. Commissioner Stavros Dimas gave an outline of EU greenhouse gas emissions trends and emissions reductions proposals by other parties while Norwegian minister Hanne Bjurstrøm talked about initiatives to reduce deforestation in developing countries. Lastly, French minister Jean-Louis Borloo presented his "climate justice" plan.

Over lunch, ministers held a policy debate on this issue. The president summarised the discussions as follows:

Ministers confirmed the existing EU position for the Copenhagen talks and underlined the need to show EU leadership at the conference. The EU still aims for a legally binding agreement that will come into force in 2013 and will build on the Kyoto Protocol. Such an agreement would have to cover all elements of the Bali Action Plan and encompass all countries.

The EU will keep pressing other parties to present ambitious pledges to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. Ministers welcomed recent developments whereby some parties have increased their bids and others have offered emissions reductions for the first time. At the same time, the EU will continue using its conditional offer to move by 2020 to a 30 % reduction compared to 1990 levels as a lever to increase other parties' pledges.

Ministers also debated the EU's vision for the outcome of the Copenhagen conference. It was highlighted that the main decisions will have to be taken in Copenhagen, including binding emissions reduction commitments and a timetable for drafting ratifiable text. Those decisions must be followed up with immediate action, including quick financial assistance to developing countries and measures to prevent deforestation.

The EU position for Copenhagen, adopted in October 2009, is set out in [14790/09](#) and [15265/09](#). It will continue to evolve during the 15th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen (7 to 18 December 2009).

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**EXTERNAL RELATIONS****Preparation of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council**

The Council adopted a decision with a view to the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council, established by the economic partnership agreement between the EU and the CARIFORUM states (15 Caribbean states). This decision concerns the EU position on the rules of procedure for dispute settlement and the code of conduct for arbitrators and mediators provided for by the economic partnership agreement ([15026/09](#)).

EU-Ukraine cooperation committee meeting

The Council took note of preparations for the 12th EU-Ukraine cooperation committee meeting, to be held in Brussels on 26 November 2009.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY**Exclusion from EU rules on taking up and pursuit of business - comitology procedure**

The Council decided not to oppose a Commission decision to include the SID-Slovenska izvozna in razvojna banka in the list of institutions excluded from the scope of application of directive 2006/48 on the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions.

In accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny, the Council can oppose the Commission's adopting an act which exceeds the implementing powers of the Commission, is not compatible with the aim or content of the basic instrument or does not respect subsidiarity or proportionality if the regulatory committee previously supported the envisaged measures.
