



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions Follow-up to the Cancún Conference

***3075th ENVIRONMENT Council meeting
Brussels, 14 March 2011***

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council of the European Union

1. strongly **WELCOMES** the positive and forward-looking outcomes of the Cancún Climate Conference ("Cancún Agreements"), which pave the way for immediate and concrete actions on the ground, provide a solid basis for further development and implementation of the agreed institutional architecture in the course of 2011 and lay the foundation for a global and comprehensive legally-binding post-2012 framework.
2. **UNDERLINES** that the Cancún Agreements reaffirm the strength of the UNFCCC multilateral process as a means of finding global solutions to global problems; **RECOGNIZES** that significant challenges lie ahead and **URGES** all Parties to build on the positive momentum to help address the remaining central issues at the Durban Climate Conference.
3. **CALLS** on all Parties to move to fully implement all elements of the Cancún Agreements.
4. **STRESSES** the urgent need to see balanced progress and robust outcomes under both the Kyoto Protocol and Convention tracks by the end of this year with a view to avoiding a gap after the first commitment period and to continue to strengthen the implementation of climate policies; **CONFIRMS** its willingness to consider a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, as part of a wider outcome including the perspective of the global and comprehensive framework engaging all major economies, while reiterating, in this regard, its preference for a single legally binding instrument that would include the essential elements of the Kyoto Protocol, reflecting the ambition and effectiveness of international action and responding to the urgent need for environmental integrity; in this context, progress on the reform of existing market mechanisms and the establishment of new sectoral or other scaled-up market mechanisms should be achieved; **RESOLVES** to continue to reflect on the issue in the light of the progress made through the Cancún Agreements towards the fulfilment of some of these conditions and the work pursued in the course of 2011.

P R E S S

5. UNDERLINES the importance of complementing the shared vision for long-term cooperative action as agreed in the Cancún Agreements, including the objective of keeping the increase of global temperature below 2°C compared to the pre-industrial level, by identifying by the Durban Climate Conference a global 2050 emission reduction goal and a timeframe for global peaking; REITERATES that, to keep the 2°C objective within reach, global greenhouse gas emissions need to peak by 2020 at the latest and be reduced by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 1990 and continue to decline thereafter; REAFFIRMS the EU objective, in the context of necessary reductions according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) by developed countries as a group, to reduce emissions by 80-95% by 2050 compared to 1990 level as agreed in October 2009.
6. EMPHASISES the need to adopt the provisions on the scope of the review of the long-term global goal and overall progress towards achieving it as well as its modalities, as called for in the Cancún Agreements, at the Durban Climate Conference; in this context, also LOOKS FORWARD to the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report.
7. RECALLS the European Council conclusions of 4 February 2011, which looked forward to the elaboration of a low-carbon 2050 strategy providing the framework for the longer-term action in the energy and other related sectors, with due consideration for fixing intermediary stages towards reaching the 2050 objective.
8. WELCOMES the presentation by the Commission of the Roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy in 2050; REAFFIRMS its October 2010 conclusions that the Roadmap should also inform the analysis of policy options up to 2020, including the consequences at Member State level; LOOKS FORWARD to a comprehensive discussion of the Roadmap, including the safe and sustainable cost-effective trajectory to 2050, in order to adopt conclusions at the June 2011 Council with a view to the June 2011 European Council.
9. WELCOMES the anchoring of the mitigation commitments and actions under both the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention; UNDERLINES the need for all Parties to implement pledged commitments and actions in full and develop low-emission development strategies or plans; STANDS READY to support developing countries in this process; UNDERLINES that, in accordance with the findings of the IPCC in its Fourth Assessment Report and more recent studies, developed countries as a group should reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 25 to 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 while developing countries as a group should achieve a substantial deviation below the currently predicted emissions growth rate, in the order of 15 to 30% by 2020; STRESSES that a significant gap remains to be bridged between the mitigation commitments and actions put forward by Parties for 2020 and the 2° C objective as enshrined in the Cancún Agreements; UNDERLINES the need to increase the overall level of ambition in order to close the emissions gap.
10. WELCOMES the processes agreed in the Cancún Agreements to clarify the assumptions and the conditions related to the attainment of developed countries' mitigation commitments, as well as to understand the diversity of developing countries' mitigation actions, their underlying assumptions and support needed for the implementation of these actions; CALLS for a detailed work programme for these processes; strongly ENCOURAGES countries which have not yet done so to put forward their mitigation commitments and actions.

11. EMPHASISES the importance of transparency of commitments and actions; WELCOMES the framework provisions on transparency, including Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), international consultations and analysis, and robust accounting in the Cancún Agreements and STRESSES the need to make them operational by completing the work programme for the development of a solid structure of modalities and guidelines by the Durban Climate Conference, drawing on the existing provisions under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and subsequent decisions; while recognising the differentiated capabilities and responsibilities of Parties, CALLS for the first enhanced national communications from Annex I Parties and biennial reports from non-Annex I Parties to be submitted no later than 1 January 2014 to ensure provision of information for the 2015 review.
12. STRESSES the need to ensure coherence and synergies between the various institutional arrangements already in place or to be operationalised.
13. NOTES with concern that impacts due to climate change are already happening and UNDERLINES the urgency of action on adaptation to the inevitable effects of climate change; WELCOMES the establishment of the Cancún Adaptation Framework aimed at enhancing action on adaptation in a coherent manner; EXPRESSES its commitment to make the Adaptation Committee operational by the Durban Climate Conference focusing on the functions outlined in the Cancún Agreements as soon as possible; NOTES the decision to improve understanding and enhance expertise on approaches to addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts as well as to continue giving consideration to the specific needs of LDCs; EMPHASISES the importance of the development and use of ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation which deliver multiple benefits at comparatively low cost and are easily accessible.
14. WELCOMES the agreement on policy approaches and positive incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conserve and enhance forest carbon stocks and sustainably manage forests (REDD+); ENCOURAGES developing countries to develop and implement national strategies and action plans, in synergy with biodiversity strategies and action plans and while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples, in order to move as soon as possible into results-based actions; also STRESSES the need to explore financing options for the implementation of the results-based actions under REDD+, with a view to preserving environmental and market integrity and taking into account the safeguards as agreed in Cancún; RECOGNISES the importance of methodological SBSTA processes agreed at Cancún on modalities for REDD+ reference levels, MRV and safeguards with a view to the Durban Climate Conference; STRESSES the need for a robust LULUCF accounting framework to be adopted at the Durban Climate Conference and, in this context, SUPPORTS the external review process in 2011 so as to make national reference levels environmentally robust and PROPOSES accounting of forest management based on reference levels including a semi-symmetrical cap at levels that provide incentives to improve carbon sequestration and ensure environmental integrity, taking proper account of sustainable forest management and forest-related land-use change.
15. WELCOMES the resolution of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication and the United Nations designation of 2011 as the International Year of Forests as a landmark opportunity to raise awareness and strengthen global political commitment and action to achieve sustainable forest management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

16. WELCOMES the establishment of the Technology Mechanism as a means to promote more dynamic cooperation between developed and developing countries with a view to accelerating the development, transfer, diffusion and deployment of climate-friendly technologies; UNDERLINES the importance of completing the design of the Technology Mechanism by the Durban Climate Conference.
 17. REITERATES the importance of ensuring the continuation of existing flexible mechanisms, while improving them, and establishing new sectoral or other scaled-up market-based mechanisms at the Durban Climate Conference in order to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote, mitigation actions while contributing to sustainable development; EMPHASISES that a robust carbon market is required, which drives the carbon price necessary for low-carbon investment, to achieve the global mitigation objectives.
 18. RECALLS that the Cancún Agreements do not cover all the aspects of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Groups, in particular sectoral approaches (international aviation and maritime transport and agriculture) and non-market-based approaches (including for addressing the production and consumption of HFCs under the Montreal Protocol); REAFFIRMS its October 2009 conclusions with regard to the need to agree on global emission reduction targets for international aviation and maritime transport, consistent with the 2°C objective; URGES Parties to work through ICAO and IMO to develop without delay a global policy framework in a manner that ensures a level playing field and that does not lead to competitive distortions or carbon leakage, in accordance with the principles and customary practices of ICAO and IMO, taking into account the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC in the use of potential revenues; STRESSES that the aforementioned aspects need to be taken forward in parallel in order to reach a comprehensive and balanced legally-binding post-2012 framework.
 19. EMPHASISES its determination to continue strengthening bilateral and regional alliances with a view to building bridges which reinvigorate and feed into the UNFCCC process; in this context, EXPRESSES its full support for the incumbent and incoming Presidents of COP 16/CMP 6 and COP 17/CMP 7 to take all the necessary initiatives in the run-up to the Durban Climate Conference; also EMPHASISES the importance of partnerships, informal fora and technical dialogues with third parties to make progress towards Durban; RECOGNISES the potential for mutual benefits through enhanced collaboration of the Rio Conventions."
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