



## **ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL**

### **Brussels, 18 September 2015**

The meeting will be chaired by **Carole Dieschbourg**, Luxembourg Minister for the Environment. The Commission will be represented by Commissioner **Miguel Arias Cañete**.

Starting at 10.00, the Council will focus on the preparations for the **Paris UN Climate Change Conference** to be held at the end of the year. Ministers will discuss draft Council conclusions on this issue with a view to adopting an **EU mandate** for the conference.

At lunch, ministers will take stock of the current stage of negotiations and further elaborate on a **communication** policy ahead of and during the Paris conference. In this context, the Presidency will inform ministers about the recent informal ministerial consultations on this matter (Paris, 6-7 September).

A **press conference** will take place at the end of the meeting +/- 14.00

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Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on: [www.eucouncil.tv](http://www.eucouncil.tv)

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

# ENVIRONMENT

## Paris UN Climate Change Conference

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions establishing an **EU mandate for the Paris UN Climate Change Conference**. The conclusions will elaborate on the main elements of the EU position, focusing on the main deliverables: a legally-binding Paris **agreement** to be implemented from 2020, decisions enabling the full **implementation** of the agreement and further progress on enhancing pre 2020 mitigation **ambition**.

Following work at the working group and the debate last week at the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper), the Luxembourg Presidency has prepared a draft set of conclusions to be discussed, finalised and approved at the Council meeting.

### Paris conference

From 30 November to 11 December Paris will host the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (**COP 21**) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (**CMP 11**).

The Paris conference aims at achieving **a new international legally binding agreement** on climate change, applicable to all countries, with the objective of keeping global warming below 2°C and boosting the transition towards low-carbon and climate-resilient societies and economies.

The agreement is expected to cover among other things **mitigation** efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as **adaptation** measures to existing and upcoming climate changes. Another key issue will be the means of implementation (finance, capacity-building and technology).

Each country is invited to publish ahead of the conference its intended nationally determined contribution (INDC), that is a document laying down their national climate pledge. So far, apart from the EU, more than 30 countries have presented their INDCs, covering more than 60% of global emissions.

### EU emissions reduction target and INDC

In its October 2014 conclusions, the European Council agreed on the 2030 climate and energy policy framework for the EU and endorsed a binding target of a domestic reduction of **at least 40%** in greenhouse gas emissions **by 2030 compared to 1990**. It also called on all countries to come forward with ambitious targets and policies well in advance of the Paris Conference.

[European Council \(23 and 24 October 2014\) - Conclusions](#)

Based on these conclusions, the EU submitted its **intended nationally determined contribution** to the UNFCCC in March 2015.

[EU's intended nationally determined contribution \(INDC\)](#)

For the longer-term the EU has set itself the objective of reducing emissions **by 80-95% by 2050** compared to 1990 levels, in the context of reductions required by developed countries as a group, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This goal was endorsed by the European Council in October 2009.

### Need for global action

Warming of the climate system is **unequivocal**: the atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and sea level has risen.

Latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) state that continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes, increasing the likelihood of **severe and irreversible impacts** for people and ecosystems.

Limiting climate change would require **substantial and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions** which, together with adaptation, can limit climate change risks.

For more information:

[Council website: International agreements on climate action](#)

[Council website: Tackling climate change in the EU](#)

[Official website of Paris 2015 Conference](#)

## **Any other business**

- **Cycling as a mode of transport**

The Luxembourg Presidency will inform the ministers about its statement in favour of cycling as a mode of transport, which will be discussed by Transport ministers at their meeting in Luxembourg on 7 October 2015 ([11944/15](#)).

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