

Climate change is a global challenge that can only be addressed effectively through a global effort.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Bali in December 2007 should decide to launch a process for achieving a comprehensive, effective and fair post 2012 agreement under the UNFCCC by 2009.

In March 2007 EU Heads of State and Government endorsed an integrated climate change and energy strategy put forward by the European Commission which outlines the EU's proposals for a global and comprehensive agreement, structured around eight building blocks, to combat climate change after 2012.

Such an agreement should be guided by a shared vision to reach the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC. In this context the European Union has proposed that global mean surface temperature increase should not exceed 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels in order to avoid unacceptable and potentially unmanageable global impacts and risks. The European Union acknowledges though that even below a 2°C increase, impacts and risks would remain serious.

Elements of such an agreement include agreeing on deeper absolute emission reduction commitments by developed countries, facilitating further fair and effective contributions by other countries, extending the carbon market, increasing cooperation on technology research, development, diffusion, deployment and transfer, enhancing efforts to address adaptation, addressing emissions from international aviation and maritime transport, and reducing emissions from deforestation through sustainable forest management and land use practices.

The European Union is fully committed to deliver its share of the international effort with ambitious emissions reductions from its part, and by working with international partners towards a low carbon future, inter alia through expanding its strategic partnerships and bilateral activities with third countries, in particular in relation to energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as to emerging technologies, such as carbon capture and environmentally safe sequestration and to engaging more closely with international financial institutions and the private sector.

The European Climate Change Programme identifies a set of comprehensive measures that have been put in place to deliver on its Kyoto Protocol targets. Among these measures is the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (European Union ETS) with links to the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI). With the implementation of planned additional policies and measures and the use of the Kyoto Mechanisms, the European Union and the Member States remain on course to meet their targets by 2012.

The European Union is committed to more ambitious action in tackling climate change in the medium and longer term. In that regard, the European Union:

- called for a global emission reductions of up to 50% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels;
- reiterates that developed countries should continue to take the lead by committing to collectively reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases in the order of 30% by 2020 compared to 1990 with a view to collectively reducing their emissions by 60 to 80% by 2050 compared to 1990
- endorsed a 30% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 as its contribution to a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012, provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and economically more advanced developing countries to contributing adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities;
- has already made a firm independent commitment to achieve at least a 20% reduction of GHG gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990, without prejudice to the EU's position in international negotiations.

In July 2007 the European Commission adopted the green paper "Adapting to climate change in Europe: options for EU action" that sets out four lines of priority actions to be considered:

- Early action to develop adaptation strategies in areas where current knowledge is sufficient;

- Integrating global adaptation needs into the EUs external relations and building a new alliance with partners around the world;
- Filling knowledge gaps on adaptation through EU-level research and exchange of information;
- Setting up a European advisory group on adaptation to climate change to analyse coordinated strategies and actions.

The European Union welcomes this opportunity to provide additional information on its climate change strategy.

Additional and more detailed information on the strategies and commitments of the European Union and its respective Member States on climate change may be found in the attached documents and on the following sites:

European Union

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index_en.htm

European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/home_en.htm

Austria

<http://www.klimastrategie.at/article/articleview/55600/1/8790>

Belgium

www.climat.be
www.klimaat.be

Bulgaria

http://www.moew.government.bg/international/conventions/climate/climate_e.html

Cyprus

Czech Republic

<http://www.env.cz>

Denmark

<http://glwww.mst.dk/homepage/>

Estonia

<http://www.envir.ee/kliima/>

Finland

<http://www.ktm.fi/index.phtml?l=en&s=164>

France

<http://www.effet-de-serre.gouv.fr>

<http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr>

Germany

<http://www.bmu.de>

Greece

<http://www.minenv.gr/1/11/113/11301/g/1130102.html>

Hungary

www.vahava.hu

www.klima.kvvm.hu

Ireland

<http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Atmosphere/ClimateChange/NationalClimateChangeStrategy/PublicationsDocuments/FileDownload,1861,en.pdf>

Italy

www.minambiente.it

Latvia

http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/darbibas_veidi/global_climate_change/

Lithuania

<http://www.am.lt/VI/en/VI/index.php#r/144>

Luxembourg

http://www.environnement.public.lu/air_bruit/dossiers/plan_action_CO2/index

Malta**The Netherlands**

<http://international.vrom.nl/pagina.html?id=7383>

Poland

http://www.mos.gov.pl/2strony_tematyczne/ochrona_powietrza/konwencje_ekologiczne/konwencja_klimatyczna/Report.pdf

http://www.mos.gov.pl/2strony_tematyczne/ochrona_powietrza/konwencje_ekologiczne/konwencja_klimatyczna/IV_Raport_Rzadowy.pdf

Portugal

http://www.iambiente.pt/portal/page?_pageid=73.408080&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&actualmenu=10140981&docs=10236023&cboui=10236023&old_menu=none&menu_childmenu=10140981

Romania

http://www.mmediu.ro/dep_mediu/schimbari_climatice/schimbari_climatice.htm

Slovakia

<http://www.enviro.gov.sk>

Slovenia

http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/compliance/plenary/application/pdf/cc-ert-2007-5_report_on_ir_rev_of_slovenia.pdf

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/sloenc1.pdf>

Spain

<http://www.miliarium.com/Paginas/Leyes/atmosfera/ue/kioto/Espana/EstrategiaCambioClimatico.pdf>

Sweden

<http://www.internat.naturvardsverket.se/>

United Kingdom

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/index.htm>