



EUROPEAN UNION
Delegation of the European Commission
to the United Nations

Video message

of

the President of the European Commission

José Manuel Durão Barroso

for the

Summit on Climate Change

convened by the Secretary-General

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New York

Ladies and Gentlemen

The latest science can leave no room for doubt. We must now take urgent steps to prevent dangerous climate change. Copenhagen must deliver an ambitious and comprehensive agreement to ensure that the global temperature increase does not exceed 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures.

But climate change is not just a threat. Fighting climate change also offers enormous opportunities – to make our world more sustainable, help us out of recession, and create new "green jobs". For example, Europe's renewable energy commitments should generate around €90 billion in new investment and some 700,000 new jobs in this sector.

Europe is ready to seize the opportunities with our commitment to cut greenhouse gases by 20% of 1990 levels by 2020, and we are ready to go to 30% if our partners also do their fair share.

In New York this week, we have to unblock these negotiations. Developed countries must strive to reach an aggregate reduction of 25-40% by 2020 compared to 1990, and developing countries too must limit their emissions growth to 15% to 30% below "business as usual" levels.

And to our developing country partners, let me say this: that we will also push this week for a serious approach from the developed world on finance. We recognise that you will need around an additional €100 billion by 2020. Some of that will come from a stronger carbon market, and some from your own resources, but the EU and other developed countries should also be ready to provide substantial public funding to complement your efforts, both on adaptation and on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I strongly applaud the efforts of the UN Secretary- General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, in calling us together this week to address this subject. We must match your efforts by having real discussions between leaders, enabling our negotiators to resume in Bangkok, next week, with real energy and determination to reach a deal in Copenhagen.