



## EU Statement on climate change and post-2012

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing us today. Science tells us that warming of the climate system is unequivocal and is caused by human activity. It tells us that unless we act now, impacts will quickly become unmanageable, with irreversible consequences for Humanity and our environment. It however also tells us that mitigation of climate change is technically feasible and economically affordable, if we act now. Moreover, early action will reduce the severity and frequency of climate change impacts, avoiding potentially massive costs to our societies.

Tackling climate change also offers opportunities. The EU is convinced that, by focusing our efforts on becoming a low carbon economy, we will become more competitive, create new jobs and address both the energy and climate security challenges we are facing today.

As a signal of our commitment to this aim, EU Heads of State and Government agreed in March 2007 an ambitious EU energy and climate strategy. Climate change is a global challenge, and addressing it will require global action. This is why our climate and energy strategy sets out a vision for a strengthened global response to climate change, through a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which should build upon and broaden the Kyoto Protocol architecture and provide a fair and flexible framework for the widest possible contributions.

With a view to achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention, the EU 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, which is in line with the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report.

A global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement will require all developed countries to take the lead by committing to collectively reducing their greenhouse gas emissions in the order of 30% by 2020 compared to 1990, with a view to collectively reducing their emissions by 60-80% by 2050 compared to 1990. The EU has already made a firm independent commitment to reduce its emissions by at least 20% by 2020, as a clear signal of leadership. As part of the EU's climate change and energy strategy, the EU is also committed to increase its energy efficiency by 20% and achieve a 20% renewable energy target by 2020.

Furthermore, the EU is willing to commit to a reduction of 30% of the EU greenhouse gas emissions 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 adequately contribute according to their responsibilities and capabilities.



The EU believes that further essential elements of a post-2012 agreement should be brought together into an effective and appropriate framework allowing us to avoid dangerous climate change. This framework comprises, in our view, the following eight building blocks:

- a shared vision to reach the ultimate objective of the Convention;
- deeper absolute emission reduction commitments by developed countries;
- promoting further fair and effective contributions by other countries, including incentives set by new and flexible types of commitments, to reduce the greenhouse gas emission intensity of economic development;
- extending the carbon market, including innovative and enhanced flexible mechanisms;
- increasing cooperation on technology research, development, diffusion, deployment and transfer;
- enhancing efforts to address adaptation, including risk management instruments, finance and technologies for adaptation;
- addressing emissions from international aviation and maritime transportation, making further use of the expertise, experience and work of relevant international organisations;
- reducing emissions from deforestation and enhancing sinks by sustainable forest management and land use practices.

The implementation of these building blocks will need to be underpinned by concrete action to unlock and accelerate the global investment and financial flows necessary for a global sustainable development path based on a low carbon economy. This will, in particular, need to include up-scaling and re-directing of financial flows, in particular to assist developing countries in their efforts to develop and deploy low carbon technology. In our view, the carbon market remains the most important, innovative and promising avenue for mobilising resources on the scale required to meet climate change mitigation needs. Particular attention must also be paid to assisting vulnerable developing countries to adapt to unavoidable impacts of climate change. Other initiatives, such as the Clean Energy Investment Frameworks being developed by the IFIs, also offer significant opportunity for scaling up financial flows for low carbon energy, sustainable forestry and adaptation within developing countries.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Bali in December 2007 should decide to launch a process for achieving a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement under the UNFCCC by the end of 2009. At Heiligendamm this year the G8 signaled its commitment to actively and constructively contribute to such an outcome in Bali. Over the next few months, a number of formal and informal events will provide important opportunities to start forging a global consensus in support of such an agreement.

The EU welcomes in particular the initiative of the **UN Secretary General** to convene a **High-Level Event on Climate Change** on 24 September. This will be the first time that all Heads of State and Government have the opportunity to come together to discuss the climate challenge. Attention will be focused on global actions relating to mitigation,



adaptation and investment in technology development and deployment, along with discussion of financial flows to facilitate such action.

On 24 and 25 October, Indonesia will host an informal **Ministerial meeting in preparation for the Bali UN Climate Conference**. The EU sees this initiative as an important preparatory meeting to ensure a successful outcome of the Bali Conference.

The EU further welcomes and is actively engaging in various other processes initiated through the G-8, to **further agreement by major economies** on a detailed contribution towards a global agreement under the UNFCCC by 2009. The meeting of the G-8+5 Sherpas and high-level representatives on the 16<sup>th</sup> October will provide an important opportunity to give momentum to these processes.

From 9 to 11 September, 20 countries with large and growing energy needs have met in Berlin as part of the Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development, with a focus on enhancing and evolving the global carbon market and further mobilising finance for clean development, including through the Clean Energy Investment Frameworks that are being developed by international financial institutions.

This will be followed by a further meeting of the Gleneagles Dialogue, hosted by the Government of Japan in March 2008, in preparation for the Hokkaido G-8 Summit in July 2008. Prime Minister Abe has set out objectives in terms of progress towards a stabilisation goal, and agreement on the need for improving energy efficiency and scaling up financing.

The United States will host a meeting of major economies on climate change and energy security in Washington, D.C. on 27 and 28 September. This meeting will provide an opportunity for major economies that use the most energy and generate the majority of GHG emissions to contribute to a post-2012 framework under the UNFCCC. The EU welcomes in particular the opportunity to use this initiative to build agreement on a global goal for emission reductions, which the EU considers should be at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2050.

The EU is committed to ensure that outcomes of these upcoming meetings will significantly help to advance the UNFCCC process towards reaching a comprehensive, effective and fair agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference at the end of 2009 in Copenhagen.