Press Release

*European Union Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard visits the Philippines on September 5-6 to strengthen bilateral co-operation on climate action.*

Ms. Hedegaard will be the first European Union Commissioner to visit the Philippines in several years when she arrives September 5th to discuss an issue at the top of the EU agenda: Climate Action. She travels straight from Palau where she has been consulting with some of the countries most vulnerable to climate change within the Pacific Island Forum.

During her visit the Commissioner will press the case for closer EU-Philippine cooperation on climate action with the highest levels of the Philippine Government notably in her meetings with Foreign Secretary Albert F. Del Rosario and the Vice Chair of the Philippine Climate Change Commission, Secretary Lucille Sering.

Commissioner Hedegaard said:

"It is my ambition to make the European Union and the Philippines partners in advancing the global climate change agenda. The Philippines can count on Europe's climate cooperation and ambition. We count on the Philippines to help us bring all other major economies on board of an ambitious future climate regime to be finalized in 2015. There is no time to lose if we want to avoid that devastating climate-driven disasters become the new normal."

Recognising the central role of parliamentarians in advancing climate action around the world, the Commissioner will also meet with members of the Philippine legislature including Senator Legarda as well as other members of the Senate and the House who are supporting climate action under the umbrella of "Globe Philippines".

Alongside her meetings with Filipino authorities Commissioner Hedegaard is also scheduled to discuss EU-ADB co-operation on Climate action with the Director-General of the ADB regional and sustainable development Department. Mr. S Chandler.

Commissioner Hedegaard will exchange views with several Philippine climate action advocacy groups and meet members of the local and foreign press. The Commissioner will address a press conference on September 6th.

*Annex: cv EU Commissioner Connie Hedegaard*

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Curriculum vitae of Connie Hedegaard

Born in 1960, Connie Hedegaard had already been working with climate issues for several years by the time she began her appointment as the EU's first ever Commissioner for Climate Action in February 2010.

In August 2004 she was appointed as Danish Minister for the Environment. In 2007 she was in charge of setting up the Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy, where one of the main tasks was to prepare the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Connie Hedegaard began her political career while a student at the University of Copenhagen. There she studied literature and history while at the same time pursuing a political career that encompassed both Danish and international politics. In 1984, at the age of 23, she was elected to the Danish Parliament as a member for the Conservative People's Party, thereby becoming the youngest Danish MP ever at that time, and in 1985 she became Chair of the Atlantic Association of Young Political Leaders. In 1989, Connie Hedegaard became first spokesperson for the Conservative People's Party, but chose to leave politics for journalism in 1990.

Besides her political career, Connie Hedegaard has had a long career in journalism. In 1990, she began working as a journalist on the Danish national newspaper Berlingske Tidende. In 1998 she became head of the news bulletin service Radioavisen at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation, after which she hosted the current affairs programme Deadline on the television channel DR2. Between 1998 and 2004 she also wrote for the Danish national daily newspaper Politiken.

Apart from working as a politician and journalist, Connie Hedegaard has sat on a number of committees and boards, including chairing the Centre for Cultural Cooperation with Developing Countries (CKU) and as a member of the board of the Danish Parliament's Democracy Foundation. Lastly, she has received various prizes for her involvement in and contributions to social debate, due in great part to her wide-ranging activities as a lecturer and author. Her publications include Da klimaet blev hot, [When the climate got hot]published in Denmark in 2008, as well as contributions to several anthologies and topical books.

Connie Hedegaard lives in Brussels and in Hellerup, Denmark with her husband, Jacob, and their two sons.