

EU position ahead of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference - COP21 7&8 December 2015

- The EU and its Member States have made securing an ambitious, legally binding international agreement, with all countries signed up, a top priority in 2015.
- An effective deal is one that would convince the world's policy-makers, businesses, and citizens that governments are committed to supporting a global low-carbon transition. A strong signal of political resolve is necessary to accelerate global transition to climate resilient low carbon economy.
- In our view, Paris must deliver an Agreement that is inclusive, fair and effective at keeping the world on track for the agreed objective of limiting global temperatures to below 2 degrees. The EU believes that a multilateral approach, based on common rules, is the best way to meet this objective and ensure Paris is a success.
- It is very promising signal that more than 160 Parties, covering together nearly 90% of greenhouse gas emissions, and including major emitters such as China, US, India, Russia, Brazil, Indonesia have submitted their contributions (INDCs) to the Agreement. It is a real shift from action by few to action by all. The EU wants to work with partners to create political conditions to conclude an effective deal in Paris.
- In our view, the key element for giving the confidence that the Paris agreement will deliver what is needed is a long-term emissions reduction goal. This goal has to be operational, clear, and in line with science: 50% GHG emissions reductions by mid-century compared to 1990 levels. And we need this goal to guide the national climate targets that countries present.
- But this goal will only convince if it is not just an intention. This is why two more things are needed as a minimum: i) clear and common rules on transparency and accountability (on what to report and how, and also what happens if targets are not hit.); ii) an agreement to hold a global stocktake every 5 years and set new targets or revisit existing ones, in order to make our common long-term goal credible. Building that dynamic into the new Agreement is one of the EU's key priorities.
- The EU agreed its position for Paris in Environment Council conclusions on 18 September. For the EU, the following features are critical for a fit for purpose, durable and ambitious Agreement:
 - **Long term goal**: the Agreement should reaffirm the objective to keep the temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius. The EU wishes to translate this goal in a 50% emission cut based on 1990 levels by 2050 and be near zero or below by 2100. By doing so all actors, public and private alike, would have a credible basis on which to take adequate policy and investment decisions.

- **Dynamism and progression on mitigation**: The Paris Agreement must require that every five years there will be a stocktaking of whether we are collectively on track to achieve the long term goal and a process for the strengthening of Parties' emissions reduction targets.
- **Transparency and accountability**: To be credible, nationally determined mitigation commitments must be backed by binding multilaterally agreed rules on transparency and accountability. Rules are essential to ensure environmental integrity and to hold Parties accountable for delivering on their mitigation commitments.
- **Legally binding**: we want a robust internationally legally binding treaty with mitigation targets as an integral part of the treaty.
- **Differentiation**: Our new agreement must be truly applicable to all. We are aware that the EU has very ambitious emissions reduction targets, but all Parties – starting from the major economies and high income countries – need to play their part. The bifurcated approach by which only a small group of Parties are obliged to reduce their emissions is outdated and not fit for purpose.
- **Climate resilience and support**: the Paris Agreement also needs to reinforce the global commitment of Parties to improve resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change. It must also ensure that those Parties that need support to tackle climate change receive it, acknowledging the widening donor base as well as the importance of enabling environments of recipients.
- The Paris Agreement should also entail a mandate to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to deliver on **international aviation and shipping emissions** respectively.