



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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S T A T E M E N T

by EU Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard on her visit to India

"I am very glad that we had such constructive meetings in India, not least with the new Indian Environment minister Shri Prakash Javadekar. It's striking to see how much is already being done on the ground in India. And in particular, all the efforts India is making to improve energy efficiency and expanding on renewables while spurring economic development at the same time.

We had particularly good discussions on the pledges that all countries should make to the next global climate deal. The EU fully recognizes that commitments to curb emissions should be differentiated in line with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities" enshrined in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This means that of course developed countries must do more and earlier. But if you look around the world of today, you will find some countries have had an enormous growth since 1992. Some of them even will surpass the GDP per capita we have in Europe. The world is changing, and this should be reflected in the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities". We are at a point where all countries must act and do as much as possible, in line with their respective capabilities and responsibilities.

In Europe, while our economy grew 45 per cent since 1990, emissions are down 19 per cent. This proves that emissions can be cut without sacrificing the economy. We will also reduce our emissions by 24 per cent by 2020, and the EU leaders have pledged to take a decision next month on the 40% emissions reduction target by 2030.

India the EU can prove to the world that green growth is not just a vague, utopian vision. It is the smart answer to many of the challenges the world is facing. By leading the way, we can motivate others to move to more ambitious climate action"

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