



EU Climate Change Outreach Project in Korea

A project funded by the European Union 2016-2017



NEWS RELEASE

EU CLIMATE DIPLOMACY WEEK: 25 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2016

The EU Delegation to Korea is organising the “EU Climate Diplomacy Week” from 25 September through 1 October. The Climate Diplomacy Week is a global climate initiative of the European Union to raise public awareness on climate issues. During the week, the EU Delegation, with support of the EU Partnership Instrument, organises and supports public events in Seoul and Busan. The events include:

- Bicycle Ride: “Burn Calories, Not Petrol” (in cooperation with Seoul City)
 - 25 September, Seoul City Plaza
 - EU Member States’ Ambassadors & Seoul Mayor
- Photo Exhibition on Green Architecture: “Sustainable Living Space in the EU”
 - 25-29 September, outside Sejong Centre for Performing Arts
 - 7-12 October, Busan Station Plaza
- Roundtable Discussion on Sustainable Mobility
 - 28 September, JW Marriott Dongdaemun

Climate change has never been higher on the EU policy agenda. Following the COP21 in Paris last year, the EU Member States agreed to set ambitious reduction targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Along with GHG reduction efforts within Europe, the EU is actively engaging with key partners around the world to support global climate action.

The EU Strategy for Low-Emission Mobility, published in December 2015, stipulates a 40% cut in greenhouse emissions compared to 1990 levels by 2030, a 27% minimum share of renewable energy and a 27% minimum improvement in energy efficiency.

To help raise awareness of the impact of climate change, the EU Delegation to Korea is pleased to organise the EU Climate Diplomacy Week in Seoul and Busan to raise public awareness of climate issues. The week includes a bicycle ride, photo exhibitions and roundtable discussions and is part of a 12 month project to raise awareness across society of the consequences of climate change.

H. E. Gerhard Sabathil, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to Korea, said, “We all have a responsibility towards our planet. We are the guardians for future generations and we must take this very seriously. We do not have a choice – we have to adapt and whilst the ‘big picture’ is managed by governments, businesses



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and many other major players, we can each make a contribution in our daily lives. We owe it to ourselves, to our children and to our planet.”

The Republic of Korea is one of the major economic powerhouses and an important strategic partner of the European Union. Climate change and low carbon development, as well as business-to-business cooperation in green sectors remain dominant areas in EU-Korea cooperation. The recently launched signature projects are the EU Gateway to Korea, which fosters business ties, and the EU-Korea Emission Trading System (ETS) which aims to exchange technical knowledge on operational aspects of the ETS.

However, challenges still abound. As the seventh biggest CO₂ emitter, Korea has to balance the global demand for a green economy with the demand for maintaining industrial competitiveness.

The Ambassador continued, “The EU and Korea both need to embrace low-carbon development and low-carbon mobility options to meet their emission targets. Accordingly, it is essential to understand how technologies and climate change action make a difference. We aim to cut emissions by 40% but we have to increase public awareness by 100%.”

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Notes to Editors:

1. The project ‘Climate Change Outreach in Korea’ is an EU-funded project running from June 2016 – November 2017.
2. EU leaders agreed in October 2015 on new climate and energy targets for 2030.
3. The European Strategy for Low-Emission Mobility stipulates:
40% cuts in greenhouse emissions compared to 1990 levels; 27% minimum share of renewable energy and 27% minimum improvement in energy efficiency
[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/strategies/news/doc/2016-07-20-decarbonisation/com\(2016\)501_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/strategies/news/doc/2016-07-20-decarbonisation/com(2016)501_en.pdf)
4. The COP21 December 2015 in Paris states that cities are urgent targets for climate solutions.
http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris/index_en.htm
5. Cities and local authorities are crucial for the delivery of a low-emission strategy. Active travel such as cycling and walking, public transport and shared mobility schemes should be encouraged to reduce congestion and pollution.

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