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EU COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

~FACTSHEET N° 2~

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

Copenhagen Conference

In recent years and in particular since 2007, the EU has gradually developed its position in view of the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) scheduled for December 2009 in Copenhagen and expected to produce a global climate change agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012.

Financing, technology cooperation and capacity building will be key elements for implementation of a future agreement. The Spring European Council will examine the criteria for sharing mitigation efforts among developed countries, as well as for scaling up finance and investment flows for both mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries in order to counter the negative effects of unavoidable climate change while inducing innovation and economic growth.

In December 2008, the European Council agreed on a legislative package as the legal framework for implementing the EU's climate and energy commitments, in particular the "20-20-20" objective to be achieved by 2020:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 %,
- increasing the share of renewable energies from 8,5 % at present to 20 %;
- improving energy efficiency by 20 %.

The EU has been very active in international negotiations such as the Bali (2007) and Poznań (2008) Conferences which established the 2009 work programmes. Those negotiations will continue within the framework of the UNFCCC in the second quarter of 2009 and the EU is determined to maintain its international leadership in the fight against climate change.

P R E S S

The EU has already committed to a 20% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels by 2020, with or without an international agreement. The EU is willing to go further and cut its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 30% if other developed countries make comparable reductions and if developing countries make appropriate contributions based on their responsibilities and capabilities.

According to the Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), developed countries should collectively reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 25 to 40 % by 2020 compared to 1990 levels through domestic and international efforts, and collectively reduce their GHG emissions by 80 to 95% by 2050.

Developing countries, with the exception of the Least Developed Countries and small island developing states, should commit to integrating low-carbon development strategies and plans into national and sectoral strategies and plans covering all key emitting sectors to ensure consistency with the objective of limiting global warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

Staying below 2°C will require significant financial resources for emission reductions and adaptation, but this should also stimulate innovation, as well as economic growth and lead to long-term sustainable development.

Energy

Moderation of global energy demand is one of the key factors in meeting the 20% energy efficiency and renewables targets, building on the EU's three core energy objectives of sustainability, competitiveness and, above all, security of supply.

In the framework of the EU Energy Security and Solidarity Action Plan, submitted by the Commission in November 2008, and the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council conclusions of 19 February 2009, the Spring European Council will lay down orientations aimed at increasing the Union's energy security in the medium and longer term in the following areas:

- developing energy infrastructures in Europe;
- improving gas and oil stocks and crisis response mechanisms in the interests of security of supply;
- improving energy efficiency;
- diversifying the Union's sources and routes of energy supply, including renewables;
- promoting the Union's energy interests in its relations with all relevant partner countries.

For further information, see also:

- Commission communication: "Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen" ([5892/09](#))
- TTE Council conclusions, 19 February 2009 ([6692/09](#)),
- Copenhagen conference: <http://cop15.dk>
- December 2008 European Council conclusions ([17271/08](#))
- Commission Communication "Second Strategic Energy Review- an EU energy security and solidarity action plan" ([15944/08](#))