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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: EU statement of intent in view of the EU submission of a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Approval

1. As Parties to the Paris Agreement, the European Union (EU) and its Member States, are expected to submit their new nationally determined contribution (NDC) for 2035 as soon as possible. In view of COP30 in Belém, based on the NDCs submitted by Parties to the Paris Agreement by 30 September 2025, the UNFCCC Secretariat will prepare an NDC Synthesis Report, summarising the level of global climate commitments in relation to the Paris Agreement goal of limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
2. The UN Secretary General has invited the EU representatives along with other Parties to the Paris Agreement to announce their new NDCs ahead of COP30 at a Climate Summit on 24 September in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York.

3. The Danish Presidency and the European Commission prepared a draft NDC text that builds upon the work done by the Polish Presidency. According to the draft NDC text, the post-2030 EU NDC is to be derived from the agreement on the EU 2040 climate target in the proposal amending the EU Climate Law.
4. On 12 September, Coreper prepared the Environment Council meeting of 18 September. This entailed Coreper examining the proposal for the amended EU Climate Law with a view to reaching a general approach on 18 September¹, as well as the draft EU NDC text² with a view to its approval at the Environment Council meeting on 18 September.
5. Following the discussions, the Presidency concluded that at this stage, the Environment Council would not be in a position to reach an agreement on the 2040 climate target in the amended EU Climate Law and will finalise its position at a later stage. This leaves open the question of the submission of the NDC.
6. In the discussion, a group of Member States advocated a continued close link between the EU 2040 target and the EU NDC. On the other hand, another group of Member States suggested sending a provisional NDC to the UNFCCC, in order for the EU to deliver an NDC in time for the UN Climate Summit and ahead of the deadline for the NDC synthesis report.
7. To bridge these diverging views and to enable the EU to maintain its leadership role in the international climate negotiations ahead of COP30, the Presidency proposes a compromise in the form of a Statement of Intent in view of the submission of an EU post-2030 NDC. This would ensure that the EU can utilise the Climate Summit to present its intentions concerning the submission of an NDC.

¹ 12437/25

² 12439/25

8. The proposal for a Statement of Intent indicates the state of the existing EU climate legislative framework and the state of discussion on its future development. It explains that it is expected that the EU's post 2030-NDC would include an indicative 2035 target based on the range between an indicative linear trajectory from, on the one hand, the EU's climate targets for 2030 and 2050, and, on the other hand, from the target for 2030 and the European Commission's proposal for a 2040 target currently under discussion in the EU Council. Moreover, it signals the intention of the EU to communicate its new NDC ahead of COP30.
9. The Statement of Intent is not the EU's post-2030 NDC nor does it fulfil the requirements of an official NDC. It would not be included in the NDC registry nor the Synthesis Report, as it will not fulfill NDC guidelines. However, it is the expectation, that once the EU's post 2030-NDC has been agreed and communicated to the UNFCCC, it will be included in UNFCCC Secretariat calculations of temperature projections ahead of COP30, as has previously been the case. Such a Statement of Intent is without prejudice to the agreement on the EU 2040 climate target. It is a policy position by the Union and its Member States which is subject to the same approval process as the NDC.
10. If approved, the content of the Statement of Intent will be communicated to the UNFCCC Secretariat and to the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee by the Danish Presidency and the European Commission on behalf of the EU and its Member States with the purpose of informing on the status of the EU's upcoming NDC and be the basis of the EU communication at the UN Secretary General Climate Summit on 24 September, while awaiting the finalisation of the negotiations on the EU Climate Law.
11. Annexed, the EU Member States will find the draft Statement of Intent. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to examine the Statement of Intent and forward it to the Council for approval.

STATEMENT OF INTENT BY THE DANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES IN VIEW OF THEIR POST-2030 NDC

In 2025, we mark the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement. On this occasion, the EU reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Paris Agreement, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and to multilateral cooperation as the only effective means to address the global climate crisis.

The EU underlines that climate change is an existential threat to humanity, ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as to peace and security – a threat which spares no country, territory or region.

The EU is staying the course on climate. The EU has set binding reduction targets for 2030 of at least 55 pct. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction compared to 1990 levels and of achieving economy-wide climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest. The EU is well on track to achieve the reduction target for 2030.

On 6 February 2024, the European Commission published a Communication on the EU's climate target for 2040, including a recommendation for an intermediate 2040 target, taking into account the scientific advice of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change, and a detailed impact assessment and report on the carbon budget.

On 2 July 2025, the European Commission proposed an amendment to the EU Climate Law, setting out a legally binding EU net GHG emissions reduction target for 2040, including a possible limited contribution of high-quality international credits under article 6 of the Paris Agreement. On 18 September 2025, the EU Environmental Council discussed the matter but has not yet finalised its position on the revision of the EU Climate Law, including the 2040 target.

In response to decision 6/CMA.3 and decision 1/CMA.5, the EU and its Member States, acting jointly, will be submitting the next NDC of the EU with an indicative 2035 target of reduction in net GHG emissions of a number expected to be between 66.3 pct. and 72.5 pct. compared to 1990 levels. This is based on indicative linear trajectories from, on the one hand, the EU's climate targets for 2030 and 2050, and, on the other hand, from the target for 2030 and the European Commission's proposal for a 2040 target that is currently under discussion in the EU Council. This range is without prejudice to the final agreement on the EU's 2040 climate target in the EU Climate Law.

The EU's NDC, including the indicative 2035 target, will be submitted by the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Commission, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, ahead of COP30. EU's indicative target for 2035 will be based upon agreement on the EU Climate Law, including its 2040 target.

The EU and its Member States reaffirm their determination to continue leading by example, advancing ambitious climate action while fostering sustainable growth, resilience, and prosperity for present and future generations.
