



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 26 February 2018
(OR. en)

6125/18

CFSP/PESC 137
DEVGEN 15
CLIMA 25
COPS 41
ENV 75
ONU 8
RELEX 113

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 6094/18

Subject: Council Conclusions on Climate Diplomacy
- Council Conclusions (26 February 2018)

Delegations will find in the Annex the Council Conclusions on Climate Diplomacy, adopted by the Council at its 3598th meeting held on 26 February 2018.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

The Council:

Commitment to multilateralism/Urgency of swift implementation of the Paris Agreement

1. UNDERLINES, in line with the EU Global Strategy, the crucial importance of a shared rules-based global order, with multilateralism as its key principle and the United Nations at its core and RECONFIRMS that the EU will continue to lead the way in the global pursuit of climate action, so as to fully implement the Paris Agreement and to achieve the 2030 Agenda, with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its centre.
2. NOTES WITH GREAT CONCERN the strong scientific evidence presented in recent reports pointing to the acceleration of climate change and the fast closing window to hold collectively the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; EMPHASISES the unprecedented urgency to step up global efforts to halt and reverse climate change. LOOKS FORWARD TO the upcoming Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways; NOTES WITH CONCERN the Arctic Council's recent findings that the Arctic is warming at more than twice the global average rate resulting in serious global consequences. RECOGNISES the call for swifter climate action coming from the December 2017 One Planet Summit.
3. RECOGNISES that the 23rd Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 23) also revealed a growing sense of concern at the adequacy of existing global commitments to alter the course; REMAINS determined to deliver our commitments needed for the full operationalisation of the Paris Agreement, based on a universal regime with rules applicable to all at COP 24.

Addressing the nexus between climate change and security

4. RECOGNISES that climate change has direct and indirect implications for international security and stability, chiefly affecting those in most fragile and vulnerable situations, contributing to the loss of livelihoods, reinforcing environmental pressures and disaster risk, forcing the displacement of people and exacerbating the threat of social and political unrest.
5. NOTES WITH CONCERN the deterioration of the world's water resources and ecosystems, as well as the growing threat posed by water scarcity, water related risks and extreme events. RECOGNISES the need for more comprehensive and concerted international efforts to address the water-related aspects of climate change in line with Council conclusions of 2013 on EU water diplomacy and initiatives such as the Budapest Water Summit 2016, and LOOKS FORWARD to the 8th meeting of the World Water Council on 18-23 March 2018 in Brasilia. STRESSES the importance of cross-border cooperation on environmental matters between the Member States and partner countries, especially on transboundary environmental impact assessments, in line with relevant international standards and conventions, especially the UNECE Espoo, Aarhus and Water Conventions.
6. RECONFIRMS that as climate change acts as a threat multiplier, development responses need to become more conflict sensitive as much as security approaches need to become more climate sensitive, particularly for countries which are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and are already under pressure from natural, societal or political sources. RESOLVES to further mainstream the nexus between climate change and security in policy dialogue, conflict prevention, development and humanitarian action and disaster risk strategies. In this context the EU SUPPORTS the continued work in the framework of the G7, including exchanging best practices in the G7 Working Group on climate and fragility, and in the UN system, and encouraging in particular the UNSC to increase its focus on the climate and security nexus, recommending that it be a recurrent item within deliberations for UNSC resolutions and statements, and looking at options, including institutionally, to strengthen climate risk assessment and management within the UN system.

7. REAFFIRMS the need to further integrate effective responses to climate security risks across policy areas – ranging from climate action and resilience building on the one hand to preventive diplomacy and improved risk assessment on the other hand to strengthen the bridge between early warning and early action. RECOGNISES the need to promote the sustainable management of water and land as well as conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in order to maintain ecosystem services. UNDERLINES the importance of translating climate and security analysis into possible action, one example being the 2017 Hague Declaration as part of the Planetary Security Conference series.
8. LOOKS FORWARD TO the high level event on climate and security to be held in Brussels in June at the initiative of HR/VP Mogherini to underline the growing importance of addressing the destabilising effects and risks of climate change and to reconfirm the EU's and its partners' commitment to swift and ambitious action in that respect.

EU commitment through action – at all levels

9. EMPHASISES that Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as a cornerstone of the wider national development plans, are a key driver for integrating ambitious climate action in national policy making and the need for the NDCs to be translated into actionable domestic policies and measures in line with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. STRESSES the necessity to address the significant gap between the aggregate effect of current NDCs in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases and aggregate emission pathways consistent with holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and perusing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1,5 °C above pre-industrial level.
10. HIGHLIGHTS the EU's early adoption of the legislation necessary to implement its NDC as part of an ambitious Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy. CONFIRMS the commitment of the EU to cooperate and to exchange experiences and lessons learnt with its partners in accelerating effective policy implementation, including through initiatives such as the NDC partnership, while stressing the EU's engagement to deliver its pre-2020 climate change commitments.

11. RECOGNISES the importance of effective and efficient adaptation action, strategies and plans, including the use of ecosystem-based solutions to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change in the context of the Paris Agreement. In this context, RECALLS the efforts that the EU and its Member States are already undertaking to enhance resilience and increase adaptation capacity. The EU STANDS READY to continue cooperation with all partners, including the most vulnerable countries, especially the least developed countries and small island developing states (SIDS), with a view to accelerating progress at all levels. Also RECALLING the essential connection between climate and oceans, as reflected in the joint communication “International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans”.
12. The EU will continue to uphold, promote and protect human rights also in the context of climate change and climate diplomacy. UNDERLINES that gender equality, women’s empowerment and women’s full and equal participation and leadership are vital to achieve sustainable development, including climate change adaptation; also STRESSES the role to be played by local communities in tackling the range of challenges associated with climate change.
13. Highlights that the EU and its Member States are providing substantial capacity building and technology transfer. UNDERLINES that the EU and its Member States are the largest provider of public climate finance and STRESSES the need for the further participation of a broader range of contributors as well as ambitious progress on the Paris Agreement's transformational objective to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards safe and sustainable low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. REAFFIRMS its commitment to continuing to scale up the mobilisation of international climate finance, as part of the collective developed countries' goal to jointly mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 through to 2025 for mitigation and adaptation purposes, from a wide variety of sources, instruments and channels in order to assist developing countries in implementing their climate change adaptation and mitigation plans. RECOGNISES the call for scaling up of public as well as private financing in support of swifter climate action coming from the December 2017 One Planet Summit.

14. RECALLS the connection between climate and development already set out in the EU Consensus on Development. In this context, EU and its Member States further UNDERLINE that carbon pricing and fossil fuel subsidy reform are key steps in creating and enabling environment for making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards safe and sustainable low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development and that international science and technology and energy cooperation can play an important role in providing innovative and sustainable solutions in addressing the global challenge of climate change.
15. UNDERLINES the important role non-state actors play in climate action. REITERATES the commitment of the EU to reaching out to relevant non-state actors, including civil society, the private sector and local and regional governments. HIGHLIGHTS the critical role of non-state actors as recognised by the Paris Agreement through the Global Climate Action Agenda and by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Also UNDERLINES the relevance of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. WELCOMES the Bonn-Fiji Commitment of local and regional governments to deliver on the Paris Agreement as well as the commitments made by financial institutions at the recent One Planet Summit held in Paris, where the private sector also took a leading role in climate finance, and LOOKS FORWARD TO the engagement of civil society, businesses and local administrations at the upcoming Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in September 2018.

Advocacy, outreach and EU leadership

16. EMPHASISES the need to continue to strengthen political outreach and public diplomacy, up to the highest official levels, and through multiple policy communities and the full range of regional and sub-regional actors. UNDERLINES the importance of continued action and leadership by G20 economies that collectively account for some 80% of global emissions notably by implementing the G20 Hamburg Action Plan on Climate and Energy for Growth. RESOLVES to reinforce efforts to strengthen existing and seek new alliances with countries in all regions to mitigate climate change and prepare to adapt to the growing impacts and risks related to climate change.
17. LOOKS FORWARD TO the 2018 Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA) to be convened in Brussels jointly by the EU, Canada and China to reconfirm leadership and commitment to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement.
18. SUPPORTS the strengthening of strategic communication to better project and promote the EU's high level of ambition and commitment, domestically and with partner countries, non-state actors and the media, and to create optimal conditions for progress in the negotiations of the Paris Agreement Work Programme and its completion while promoting the benefits of the transition to a safe and sustainable low greenhouse gas emission future in terms of sustainable growth and green jobs.

Climate policy coherence in trade, transport and energy

19. HIGHLIGHTS that the interactions between climate policies and policies governing international trade and investment are increasing and EMPHASISES the need to work bilaterally and multilaterally to promote the mutual supportiveness of trade and climate policies, thereby contributing to the necessary transition to a safe and sustainable low-emission, resource efficient and climate-resilient economy including by tackling tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment in renewable energy. RECALLS its conclusions of 6 March 2017 on strengthening synergies between EU climate and energy diplomacies. In particular, energy diplomacy has a crucial role to play in supporting a system-wide transition toward a sustainable energy mix promoting renewable sources and energy efficiency measures.

20. EMPHASISES the need for the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to take swift and appropriate additional actions in order for international shipping to contribute its fair share to the fight against climate change and to agree in April 2018 on an initial greenhouse gas IMO emission reduction strategy. This should be underpinned by an adequate emission reduction objective, consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, including a list of candidate short, mid and long-term measures equally applicable to all ships, as agreed in the roadmap for developing a comprehensive IMO strategy on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships. WELCOMES the Tony de Brum Declaration issued at the occasion of the One Planet Summit and stresses the need for appropriate outreach activities in the run up to the 72nd Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 72) to further build the political momentum while striving for a successful outcome in MEPC 72.
21. CALLS ON the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to adopt robust rules to secure the effective implementation of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA), agreed at the 2016 ICAO Assembly and to secure the broadest possible participation of States so the objective of carbon neutral growth from 2020 (CNG 2020) is achieved. This is currently being complemented by other measures such as advances in air traffic management, aircraft technologies and sustainable alternative fuels. Continued research and innovation policies and programmes will be essential to enable the technological progress and operational improvements needed in order to achieve further emission reductions, consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement.

The path to COP 24

22. RECOGNISES the progress made on the Paris Agreement Work Programme by the Parties during Fijian COP 23. FURTHER RECOGNISES that common rules for all Parties, with particular reference to the transparency framework, are essential to ensure the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement provisions. REMAINS CONVINCED that substantial progress on all elements of the Paris Agreement Work Programme in a balanced manner is still needed with a view to finalise it at COP24.

23. CALLS for a collective, comprehensive and concerted reflection on progress in delivering the agreed adaptation and mitigation objectives, consistent with the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. In that context LOOKS FORWARD TO the 2018 "Talanoa" Dialogue as presented by the Fijian Presidency at COP 23 to run through 2018. REITERATES the EU's and Member States' commitment to participate fully in the Dialogue and ENCOURAGES all Parties to use this opportunity to take stock of the collective efforts in relation to progress towards the long term mitigation goals under the Paris Agreement and to inform the preparations of NDCs during the political phase of Talanoa Dialogue at COP 24 focusing on collective action and enhanced global ambition. The COP 24 will also be an opportunity to take stock of all Parties' efforts pre-2020. CONSIDERS that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C will be a valuable source of information for the discussions in this context.
24. UNDERLINES that the broadest based engagement of stakeholders and dialogue between international partners is essential for timely implementation of the Paris Agreement while delivering the necessary transformation of the global economy. In this context, IDENTIFIES the Talanoa Dialogue as a central theme for EU climate diplomacy in 2018 which will allow the EU and Member States to enhance mutual understanding and trust that fosters stronger cooperation with partner countries and wider stakeholders, and to complete the Paris Agreement Work Programme at COP 24.
25. FIRMLY SUPPORTS the UNFCCC Secretariat as well as Fiji and Poland in their respective capacities as the COP23 and COP24 Presidencies, in leading the global community to a successful COP24, and REMAINS determined to deliver a successful outcome with the Talanoa Dialogue, the finalisation of the Paris Agreement Work Programme and the Climate Action Agenda as key elements, engaging the EU and all international partners in sustained action to combat climate change.