

Common statement on the long-term strategy and the climate ambition of the EU

Luxembourg, Monday 25th of June 2018

Science shows that significant further efforts are required from all the Parties – including the EU – to achieve the temperature goals under the Paris Agreement. The Talanoa Dialogue will allow Parties to assess the efforts that are still needed, in order to inform the communication or the updating of nationally determined contributions and the preparation of the long-term low greenhouse gas (GHG) emission development strategies to be submitted by 2020. In this context, **the EU must continue to demonstrate climate leadership, to create a positive momentum among all the Parties to the Agreement to raise global climate ambition.**

In this regard, **the signatories welcome the conclusions of the European Council on the 22nd of March 2018** that invited the Commission to present a proposal for a long-term strategy in accordance with the Paris Agreement. This strategy, eagerly awaited by our partners and civil society, should give a clear direction for European climate action and predictability for local governments and economic agents (e.g. households, the private sector, financial institutions, etc.), enabling them to redirect resources toward a low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient economy and to inform research and innovation.

The signatories welcome that the European Commission will present this proposal before COP 24, to allow an informed discussion among Member States in view of its submission to the UNFCCC by early 2020. The elaboration of this proposal shall be conducted in a transparent manner, **with involvement of the Member States and the stakeholders at the main stages of the process.**

This new strategy should be based on **the latest available science**, especially the next special IPCC report on 1.5°C. To inform the discussion, **the proposal should consider several pathways for reducing GHG emissions towards carbon neutrality in compliance with the long-term objectives of the Paris Agreement, including a 1.5°C scenario and at least one pathway towards net zero GHG emissions in the EU by 2050 followed by negative emissions thereafter.** The proposal should examine, inter alia, the consistency of **the current European GHG emission reduction target of at least 40% in 2030 compared to 1990 with a trajectory for the different long-term pathways considered, taking into account the principles of equity as well as cost effectiveness.** The strategy should also consider **the need for an economically efficient green transition, just for all the European citizens and regions.** Wide and continued stakeholder engagement in the modeling and full transparency on assumptions, technology costs, underlying data and scenario development will strengthen quality, credibility and public support of the proposal.

In addition, **European sector-specific policies may enable the EU to achieve higher emissions reductions in 2030 than what could be expected based on the current EU Climate and Energy Framework.** Therefore, **the signatories ask the European Commission to take stock before COP 24 of the impact of the additional efforts that have been provided, or will be, by these sector-specific policies, on the EU 2030 target and on the total amount of GHG emissions reductions in the EU up to 2030.** Based on the results of this assessment, **the EU should consider announcing at COP 24 its readiness to update its NDC by 2020 taking into account of the collective further effort needed to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement,** in order to create a positive momentum among the Parties.

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The above listed Ministers are part of the Green Growth Group. The Green Growth Group consists of 16 EU Member States plus Norway that have been collaborating over the last four years to make EU climate policy more ambitious and sustainable.