



Brussels 28.8.2015

Dear Minister for the Environment,

In advance of the next Environment Council Climate Action Network Europe calls for the EU to do its utmost to contribute to a fair and transformational agreement in Paris. We expect you to pay in particular attention to the following seven points;

1) Paris protocol must be aligned with latest science and the IPCC's defined carbon budgets

The EU's Paris position must endorse latest climate science. It needs to consider the impacts related to different levels of warming and be clear in setting out real and honest mitigation and adaptation needs, addressing 100% of greenhouse gas emissions. While the outcome in Paris alone will not be able to guarantee a safe future without disruptive climate impacts, it is paramount that the Paris outcome does not close the door for keeping temperature rise below 1,5°C and 2°C.

2) Lack of progress on climate finance is threatening the prospects of reaching an agreement in Paris

Ahead of COP 21, developed countries will have to present a credible roadmap how they are going to meet their promise to increase financial support to \$100 billion a year by 2020, and in particular set a target level for public finance to be reached by 2020. For the period after 2020, the Paris protocol should provide for collective targets for the provision of support be set in regular intervals, with separate targets for supporting adaptation based on needs assessments in countries requiring such support.

3) Limiting warming below 2°C requires multiplying current mitigation efforts before 2020

For any reasonable chance of staying even below 2°C of warming, mitigation efforts need to be multiplied between 2016 and 2020, and extended to all sectors, including international shipping and aviation. We are disconcerted that the EU, while having already achieved its -20% by 2020 target several years in advance, continues to refuse to increase its 2020 targets. In order for the Paris outcome to be credible it must include quantified commitments - also from the EU - for additional emission cuts before 2020.

4) The EU must increase its 2030 target offer before the COP 21

The current EU at least 40% reduction target by 2030 falls far from representing the EU's fair share of the global effort for keeping warming below 2°C, let alone 1,5°C. To maintain its commitment to prevent dangerous climate change, the EU should elaborate before Paris what the "at least" part of the EU 2030 commitment looks like and provide quantifiable information of its intended emissions budget for 2021-2025 and 2021-2030.

5) Five-year commitment periods are the best tool for a regular revision of targets

As countries' self-determined pledges (the INDCs) thus far are vastly inadequate to prevent dangerous climate change, there is a risk that the Paris outcome will lock-in low ambition until 2025 or even until 2030, thus cementing a 3°C to 4°C warming pathways. We call on the EU to support five-year commitment periods as an integral part of the Paris protocol. Short commitment periods that require all countries to step forward with increased targets every five years would be the most effective revision mechanism that can be established at COP 21.

6) 2050 global goal to phase-out emissions and phase-in 100% renewables

The Paris protocol needs to clearly signal that a rapid end for coal and other fossil fuels is inevitable, and to ensure that global efforts and investments are directed towards 100% renewables and global phase-out of fossil fuels by 2050. The EU's current proposal of global decarbonisation by 2100 is far too late, it relies on negative emission technologies with unrealistic assumptions, and creates a false delay signal of the urgency of global mitigation needs.

7) The EU must support vulnerable countries in adaptation and loss and damage

It is crucial to have a balanced and equally prioritised goal for adaptation in the Paris protocol, including a long-term adaptation goal, that is required to raise the political profile of adaptation and catalyse global action on adaptation to correspond with mitigation scenarios and related warming. To ensure sufficient support for adaptation, at least half of the financial support provided should be dedicated to adaptation. The Council conclusions need to stipulate how the EU intends to address loss and damage in the Paris protocol.

The Paris climate summit is a rare and outstanding opportunity for the world to move jointly forward on real climate action. We trust that you will not waste it.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wendel Trio', written over a horizontal line.

Wendel Trio, Director, Climate Action Network Europe