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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3486th Council meeting

Environment

Brussels, 30 September 2016

President **László Sólymos**
Minister for the Environment of Slovakia

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Paris Agreement

The Council agreed to speed up the process of ratification of the Paris Agreement. This agreement sets the framework for global action on climate change.

Ministers decided to go ahead with ratification at EU level. Member states will ratify either together with the EU if they have completed their national procedures, or as soon as possible thereafter.

For more information see the press release:

[Climate change: Council speeds up process for EU ratification of Paris agreement](#)

Marrakesh climate change conference

The Council adopted the following conclusions on the preparations for the Marrakesh climate change conference (7-18 November 2016):

"The Council of the European Union,

Paris Agreement

1. WELCOMES the historic and ambitious outcome reached in December 2015 in Paris where the world adopted the first truly global and legally-binding agreement with the aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by (a) holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, (b) increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and (c) making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development;
2. STRESSES the EU and its Member States' commitment to implement all the elements of the balanced Paris outcome, including the Agreement, the Paris COP decision (1/CP.21) and intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs); and UNDERLINES the importance of the rapid increase of climate action by non-state actors reflected in the Lima Paris Action Agenda, which has evolved into the Global Climate Action Agenda; HIGHLIGHTS the importance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in delivering the goals of the Paris Agreement;

3. WELCOMES the agreement in the Council on the ratification, on behalf of the European Union, of the Paris Agreement; WELCOMES the effort undertaken by all Member States to ensure speedy completion of their national ratification procedures; AGREES that in the present circumstances, it is appropriate for the Union to deposit its instrument of ratification by 7 October 2016; and WELCOMES the intention of the Member States to deposit their instruments of ratification either together with the Union or as soon as possible thereafter; WELCOMES the international political momentum towards early entry into force of the Paris Agreement in 2016 and the growing number of countries who have already deposited their instruments of ratification; ENCOURAGES other countries to ratify as soon as possible; SUPPORTS STRONGLY the inclusive approach so as to ensure that all Parties can continue to participate and fully contribute to the development of the details of the Paris Agreement;

Domestic implementation and support to international partners

4. RECONFIRMS the EU's commitment to continue the implementation of its climate policies in line with its political priorities including the Energy Union and to take ambitious climate action in order to implement the EU's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC); UNDERLINES that according to the recent data, the EU will achieve its target for 2020 confirmed by emission levels in 2014 at 24% below 1990; REITERATES that the EU and its Member States are already complying with the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol; RECALLS the 2030 regulatory framework set out in the European Council conclusions of October 2014, including the binding EU 2030 climate target to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions domestically by at least 40% compared to 1990 emissions; in this respect, WELCOMES the recent submission by the European Commission of the proposals in non-ETS sectors (Land-use, land-use change and forestry sectors (LULUCF) and Effort Sharing Regulation), which follow on the proposal to reform the EU emissions trading system;

5. CALLS ON all Parties to put in place the policies and pursue measures to achieve their (I)NDCs and, to engage in adaptation planning and the implementation of action, and to ensure that the (I)NDCs and adaptation actions are fully integrated in their national planning and strategies across all sectors of the economy; STRESSES the EU and its Member States' commitment to continue sharing experiences with and support partner countries in developing and implementing ambitious climate policies, in the context of low-emission and climate-resilient development; APPRECIATES current efforts by states, regions and non-state actors to advance cost effective reduction instruments, including carbon pricing; and WELCOMES further efforts in this field;
6. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of long term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies as a policy tool for developing reliable pathways for achieving balance between global anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of the century; WELCOMES the initiative of the European Commission to prepare an in-depth analysis of the economic, social and environmental impacts of pathways that are coherent with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement so as to inform the political debate in the context of developing mid-century, low greenhouse gas emission development strategies;
7. REAFFIRMS that the EU and its Member States are committed to scaling up the mobilisation of climate finance, as part of a global effort, led by developed countries, in particular to assist developing countries with respect to mitigation and adaptation to implement their country driven strategies, notably the Nationally Determined Contributions; REITERATES that public climate finance will continue to play a significant role; CONFIRMS that the EU and its Member States will continue to provide public climate finance for mitigation and adaptation purposes; RECOGNISES the private sector as a key source for climate finance and other relevant investment flows; WELCOMES that the Paris Agreement sends a strong signal to the private sector to re-orient financial flows to low-carbon, climate-resilient investments; CONFIRMS its intention to adopt soon conclusions on climate finance;

8. WELCOMES the NDC Partnership Initiative to be launched in Marrakech at the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 22);

International process

9. STRESSES that in accordance with the Paris Agreement, in order to achieve its long-term temperature goal, Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of the century; RECALLS the EU objective, in the context of necessary reductions according to the IPCC by developed countries as a group, to reduce emissions by 80-95% by 2050 compared to 1990; WELCOMES the decision by the IPCC to provide a special report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways;
10. RECALLS WITH CONCERN the conclusions of the UNFCCC Secretariat's Synthesis Report on the aggregate effects of INDCs which currently fall short of the necessary efforts to achieve the long-term temperature goal; HIGHLIGHTS in this context the critical importance of the ambition cycle and the transparency framework set out in the Paris Agreement; CALLS ON all Parties to design a global stocktake process fit for purpose that would help drive their domestic actions, global ambition and voluntary international cooperation and which assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of this Agreement and its long-term goals considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation; and STRESSES the importance of striving towards common time frames for all Parties for their NDCs;
11. In this context, ENVISAGES the active participation of the European Union and the Member States in the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue as a first important opportunity to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards achieving the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement;

12. RECALLS the EU and its Member States' commitment to enhance cooperation and concrete joint action with partner countries in line with the 2016 Climate Diplomacy Action Plan.

Marrakech deliverables

13. SUPPORTS the incoming Moroccan COP/CMP Presidency in its initiatives in the run-up to and at COP 22 with a view to a successful outcome for all Parties;
14. UNDERLINES that COP 22 in Marrakech will be an action and implementation COP and should demonstrate continued global engagement in favour of ambitious climate action, including making substantial progress on the work programme to elaborate the details of the Paris Agreement pursuant to Decision 1/CP.21 and to prepare for the implementation of all provisions of the Agreement comprising mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and support in a balanced manner; RECOGNISES in this context the key role of constituted bodies of the Convention;
15. CALLS for successful review of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage and the Adaptation Committee at COP 22 in order to enable an efficient and effective continuation of their work; WELCOMES the progress in launching the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB), notably by agreeing its terms of reference, and the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency;
16. NOTES WITH APPRECIATION the progress made by Parties in improving the transparent reporting of their mitigation actions; LOOKS FORWARD to the next round of the multilateral assessment and facilitative sharing of views processes under the Convention in Marrakech; HIGHLIGHTS the importance of these activities in informing the development of common modalities, procedures and guidelines of the transparency framework and of accountability guidelines under the Paris Agreement;

Pre-2020 action and Global Climate Action Agenda

17. STRESSES that all Parties need to act in order to enhance the pre-2020 action; WELCOMES the process to identify opportunities to enhance pre-2020 mitigation ambition in areas of high mitigation potential and to implement best practice mitigation policies and proven technologies, including the African Renewable Energy Initiative, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Mission Innovation, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, Climate Risk Insurance Initiative and Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative; WELCOMES also the process for increasing the understanding, implementation and promotion of adaptation actions, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities;
18. UNDERLINES the importance for the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement of multilateral cooperation through the Convention and voluntary and collaborative actions through the Global Climate Action Agenda, including actions by sub-national authorities, cities, business and civil society; UNDERLINES the importance to ensure continuity in the political attention for high mitigation and adaptation potential options by linking the technical examination process with regular events at inter-sessional meetings and annual high-level events at future COPs until 2020, as well as the need to narrow the focus of the Technical Expert Meetings and link them more clearly with concrete initiatives in the Global Climate Action Agenda; LOOKS FORWARD to the High-Level event at COP 22 to strengthen the implementation of best practices, policy options, and actions;
19. RECOGNISES that means of implementation, including finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building, in particular for countries with the least capacity or particularly vulnerable countries, should contribute to enhanced pre-2020 action; LOOKS FORWARD to a facilitative dialogue at COP 22 to assess the progress and opportunities for mobilisation of support and enabling environments; RECALLS the EU and its Member States' commitment to advance on human rights and gender equality in the context of climate change;

Other processes

20. LOOKS FORWARD to an ambitious agreement under the Montreal Protocol, in accordance with the Council's mandate, to limit the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) as an important contribution to mitigate climate change at the upcoming 28th Meeting of the Parties (MOP 28) to the Montreal Protocol (Kigali, 8-14 October 2016);
 21. SUPPORTS the efforts by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the adoption of a Global Market-based Measure (GMBM) at the upcoming ICAO Assembly (from 27 September to 7 October 2016), in accordance with the Union position as defined by the Council, as a first step from the aviation sector towards further global mitigation efforts; STRESSES the need to ensure environmental integrity, including by avoiding double counting;
 22. ENCOURAGES the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to further address mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping with a view to contributing its fair share to the global mitigation effort."
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