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<< 24 DAYS TO COPENHAGEN >>

November 12, 2009

Quote of the week:

"We are ready to increase the pace and urge all of you, partners, to do likewise... We must intensify our efforts between now and Copenhagen. A failure is not an option."

- statement by Sweden on behalf of the European Community to closing plenary session of UNFCCC negotiations in Barcelona, 6 November 2009

Latest developments:

The final round of UN negotiations before the Copenhagen conference took place from 2 to 6 November in Barcelona. On substance, the meeting closed with mixed results and without any major compromises. Numerous small informal negotiation groups meeting in parallel made some progress in further consolidating a series of 'non-papers' under the negotiating 'track' on long-term cooperative action under the UN climate convention. However, there was no agreement to give any formal status to these papers on the last day of the meeting. This means that Copenhagen will have to start without a single consolidated negotiating text.

See EU 'Troika' press release:

http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/11/6/european_union_calls_for_ambitious_global_climate_agreement_in_copenhagen

Negotiators at the ministerial level will meet early next week (Nov. 16 and 17) in Copenhagen at the so-called Pre-COP in order to break the deadlock and prepare for the Copenhagen Conference (Dec. 7-18).

On Thursday 12 November at 13h00 Commissioner Dimas will give a press conference in the Berlaymont press room on the Commission's latest report on EU progress towards meeting its Kyoto Protocol emissions target.

Key EU objectives for a new UN climate change treaty:

- Ambitious, legally binding, global participation and comprehensive scope
- Must aim to prevent global warming from exceeding 2°C above the pre-industrial temperature
- Reflect international scientific consensus as represented by Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and more recent studies
- Global greenhouse gas emissions should peak by 2020 at the latest, be at least halved from 1990 levels by 2050 and continue to decline thereafter
- Industrialised countries must lead by cutting collective emissions to 30% below 1990 levels by 2020



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- Developing countries should achieve substantial deviation, in order of 15-30% by 2020, below currently predicted emissions growth rate
- Set objective of at least halving tropical deforestation by 2020 and halting global forest cover loss altogether by 2030 at latest
- Set 2020 emissions reduction target of 10% for international aviation and 20% for international shipping, compared with 2005 levels
- Include general review clause to take account of new scientific information
- Include a Framework for Action on Adaptation to climate change
- Include consideration of a mechanism to support development and transfer of technology
- Significantly scale up public and private financial flows to help developing countries with adaptation, mitigation, deforestation reduction, technology and capacity building activities
- Reform Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation mechanism to improve their effectiveness and environmental integrity and widen developing country participation
- Introduce new sectoral crediting and trading mechanisms for highly competitive sectors in more economically advanced developing countries

Spotlight on EU positions:

Emissions mitigation by developed countries

International action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions must aim to limit global warming to no more than 2°C above the pre-industrial temperature. As a first step, global emissions must peak no later than 2020. Developed countries must take the lead, in line with the UNFCCC principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

All developed countries should commit to ambitious and legally binding quantified emission limitation or reduction commitments (QELROs). These commitments should add up to an overall cut in developed country emissions of around 30% below 1990 levels in 2020. A reduction of this size is in line with the 25-40% cut below 1990 levels by 2020 which the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and more recent scientific studies show is needed to put global emissions on a trajectory compatible with the 2°C limit.

The EU is committed to scaling up its own emissions reduction for 2020 from 20% to 30% if other industrialised countries make comparable cuts and developing countries contribute adequately to a global effort.

At the least, all countries listed in Annex 1¹ of the UNFCCC and all EU Member States, EU candidate countries and potential EU candidate countries should commit to ambitious QELROs. The EU also calls on non-Annex 1 countries that are at levels of development and of GDP/capita comparable to the group of developed countries, notably non-Annex 1 nations that are OECD members or candidates for membership, to consider making similar commitments to those of Annex 1 countries.

All developed countries (and all developing nations except the Least Developed Countries) should commit to preparing ambitious and credible low-carbon development strategies/growth plans setting out their strategy for low-carbon development. The EU and its Member States will do so.

The overall emission reduction by developed countries must be shared in a way that is fair and that ensures comparable efforts by all, in line with the December 2007 Bali Action Plan. When deciding

¹ For list see http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/parties/annex_i/items/2774.php



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whether to scale up its emission reduction target from 20% to 30%, the EU will assess the adequacy of other developed countries' emission commitments against a balanced set of criteria such as: ability to pay for domestic emission reductions and buy emission credits from developing countries; domestic emissions reduction potential; domestic early action taken to cut emissions; and domestic population trends and total emissions.

In the longer term, global emissions will need to be cut to at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2050 and continue to decline thereafter. The EU supports the objective of a collective 80-95% emission reduction by developed countries below 1990 levels by 2050.

The issue of unused Assigned Amount Units (AAUs) from the current commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol must be addressed in a way that does not harm the environmental integrity of the post-2012 agreement. Under Kyoto's rules these AAUs can be carried over for use in the second commitment period. The amount of unused AAUs from the first commitment period is likely to be significant: it is estimated at up to 10 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent, or 10 times the annual emissions of Germany. An enhanced system for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of emission mitigation commitments and actions by all Parties is needed under the post-2012 agreement to chart progress in tackling global emissions and to build mutual trust. The current system of reporting annual emission inventories, subject to independent expert review, and sending regular national communications to the UNFCCC forms a good basis on which to build MRV of developed countries' emissions mitigation targets.

Abbreviations:

BAP – Bali Action Plan

BAU – Business as Usual

NAMA – Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action

NAPA – National Adaptation Plan of Action

SBSTA – Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

SBI – Subsidiary Body for Implementation

SIDS – Small Island Developing States

Calendar of forthcoming events:

- Informal ministerial Pre-COP: Copenhagen, Nov. 16-17
- Major Economies Forum meeting: date and place tbc
- UN Climate Conference: Copenhagen, Dec. 7-18

Useful links & documents (where to surf and what to read):

- European Commission, DG Environment, Climate Change: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/home_en.htm
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: <http://unfccc.int/>



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- European Commission, Climate Action – Energy for a Changing World:
<http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction/>
- COP15 Copenhagen: <http://cop15.dk/>
- Swedish Presidency: <http://www.se2009.eu/en/>
- Communication **Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen:**
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0039:FIN:EN:PDF>
 - IP: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/141>
 - MEMO:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/09/34&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
- Communication **Stepping up international climate finance: A European blueprint for the Copenhagen Deal:**
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/pdf/future_action/com_2009_475.pdf
 - IP:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1297&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
 - MEMO:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/09/384&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
- Blogs & forums
 - Commissioner Dimas's blog: <http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/dimas/>
 - UN Climate Thinkers blog: <http://en.cop15.dk/blogs/climate+thinkers+blog>
 - SE Presidency blog: <http://se2009.wordpress.com/>
 - ECF/EU Think About It blogging community: <http://we.thinkaboutit.eu/>
 - United Nations: <http://www.sealthedeal2009.org/have-your-say>
 - DG ENV Fightclimatechange: <http://www.fightclimatechange.eu/>
 - Copenhagen Climate Council: <http://www.copenhagenclimatecouncil.com/get-involved/about-the-forum-and-summit.html>
 - Road to Copenhagen: <http://www.roadtocopenhagen.org/>
 - Future International Action on Climate Change Network: <http://www.fiacc.net/>
- Facebook & Twitter
 - COP15: www.facebook.com/cop15
 - UNEP (Seal the Deal): <http://twitter.com/unepandyou>
 - COP15: <http://twitter.com/cop15>

Contacts:

Barbara Helfferich: barbara.helfferich@ec.europa.eu

Lena de Visscher: lena.devisscher@ec.europa.eu

Press info provided weekly before COP-15 in Copenhagen