

**Statement at the opening of the high-level segment of COP17
by Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action**

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This statement is on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Madame President, ministers, ladies and gentlemen!

In some corners of the COP we have heard the argument that we do not need decisions on the future here in Durban. It is said that for the next years we should implement – AND spend some more years thinking.

Europe believes that the world has had a lot of time to think. What we need is not more thinking. What we need is more action. We would lament if this conference was remembered only for discussions and delay. We would like the 'D' in Durban to be a 'D' for decisions and delivery.

We must deliver. Deliver on what we have already agreed in Cancun and decide on further progress. We need progress on the gap between the 2 degrees ambition and current pledges. We need progress on transparency and finance and we must include the sectors that are still not covered. And most importantly we need to decide on the way forward to a new, comprehensive legally binding global agreement.

If there is one thing we have learned in Europe, it is this: Targets work. And pricing works. That is why we need a strong international framework. Only then can we bring the actions to the scale we need with the speed we need.

Europe is ready to decide and deliver. Our legislation is built on Kyoto principles. We will over-achieve on our Kyoto commitment. We have a 20 percent target for 2020. And we are ready to go to 30 percent, provided others are also ambitious. But Europe only accounts for 11 percent of global emissions.



The Convention and the Kyoto Protocol continue to be the foundation of our international regime. However, they were both crafted in the 20th century. A future regime needs to reflect the reality of the new century, and the reality is that the countries that were industrialised countries back in 1992 account for a rapidly decreasing share of emissions. Therefore, in order to tackle effectively the challenge in the 21st century all major economies need to commit.

We understand that some are not ready for that right now. This is why the EU has put a significant offer on the table. Even if others are not, we are ready to take a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Now. We do this in order to preserve what it took us all so many years to agree upon. But we must be reassured that others will join us in a new legally binding framework after that second commitment period and WHEN they will. This is why we insist on an agreement to a roadmap for future action from all other parties here.

With these words I will give the floor to Minister Korolec from Poland.

**Statement at the opening of the high-level segment of COP17
by Marcin Korolec, Minister of the Environment, President of the Council
of the European Union**

This statement is on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Madame President, distinguished colleagues,

We came to Durban with a very specific goal: to build on our decisions from the past years and to reassure ourselves, that as a global community, we are serious about moving towards the 2 degrees objective. Implementing last year's decisions will be key, but we need to go further. This year we need to agree to a clear vision of where we are going and how we will get there.

Ladies and gentlemen, Madam President, we need a roadmap. A roadmap, reassuring us that work towards a global, comprehensive and legally binding framework for all will start now. The chance to reach the 2 degree objective is getting smaller as time passes and we need to start this process today.

Let us be very clear: this roadmap is not meant to change the Convention. We need to build on what we have achieved thus far: the Kyoto Protocol, Bali, Cancún and the dynamic principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

As a key step in this direction, the EU is open to a ratifiable second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as part of a transition to a wider regime. At the same time, its environmental integrity needs to be guaranteed and its architecture must be further enhanced. Moreover a second commitment period with only a very limited number of Parties cannot be an excuse for inaction for a long period of time. A limited outcome in isolation from what the rest of the world would agree to engage in would be inconsistent with our environmental objectives and would be politically unacceptable.

Ladies and gentlemen, let there be no confusion: without prompt, ambitious and global action, the 2 degree goal will not be met. Delaying work towards a robust global system, which we urgently need, does not make sense. We need it established by 2015 and have it enter into force as soon as possible thereafter.

In the meantime, we expect nothing less than the full implementation of countries' actions pledged in Copenhagen and anchored in Cancún. We need a robust MRV to ensure transparency of these actions and build trust.

Madame President, distinguished colleagues,

We need to ensure that through our decisions this week, we take a further step towards the establishment of an ambitious and global regime. This African COP in Durban needs to serve as a reference point for the fight against climate change.