

Mr. Yvo de Boer
Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
P.O. Box 260124
D-53153 Bonn

Brussels, 25 January 2010

Subject: Expression of commitment to a legally-binding UN agreement on climate change and submission of the quantified economy-wide emissions reduction targets for 2020 to the Appendix of the Copenhagen Accord

Dear Mr. de Boer,

With this letter, the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament and the European Green Party wishes to inform you, on behalf of its 29 member parties and 3 observer parties in the European Union, that they wish the EU and its 27 Member States to continue their full commitment to concluding a legally-binding international agreement on climate change under the UNFCCC process for the period starting 1 January 2013. To this end, the EU and its 27 Member States should reconfirm their commitment to a negotiating process that can achieve the strategic objective of limiting the increase in global average temperature to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and agree to adopt emissions reduction targets in line with the scientific recommendations and the EU's share of the responsibility for these reductions.

While the EU should duly take note of the Copenhagen Accord (verbal note of the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations on 30 December 2009), and submit its targets to this end, it should underline that the UNFCCC process remains the main forum for international efforts to address climate change.

Meeting the 2°C objective requires that global GHG emissions peak by 2015 and be reduced by up to 80% as compared with 1990 levels by 2050 and continue to decline thereafter. To this end, and in accordance with the findings by the IPCC, developed countries as a group should reduce their GHG emissions below 1990 levels through domestic and complementary international efforts by 25 to 40% by 2020 and by 80 to 95% by 2050 while developing countries as a group should achieve a substantial deviation below the currently predicted emissions growth rate, in the order of 15-30% by 2020. It should be noted that this would only give a 50:50 of limiting the increase in global average temperature to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. To this end, it is clearly imperative to reduce emissions at the high end of the scales recommended by the IPCC: 40% for developed countries.

The EU and its Member States have already committed themselves to an independent quantified economy-wide emissions reduction target of 20% by 2020, compared to 1990 levels, with a commitment to increase this to 30% under the conditions set out by the European Council of March 2007. Clearly, these targets are inconsistent with the EU's stated goal of limiting the increase in global average temperature to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and its responsibilities to this end. As a consequence, **the EU target to be submitted to the Appendix 1 to the Copenhagen Accord should be a 40% reduction by 2020, compared to 1990 levels.** This would be in line with the EU's responsibility for the reductions recommended by the IPCC.

Therefore, a submission from the EU and its Member States about their commitments in the format set out by Appendix 1 to the Copenhagen Accord would be:

Annex I Parties	<i>Quantified economy-wide emissions targets for 2020</i>	
	Emissions reduction in 2020	Base year
EU and its Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom)	40%*	1990

* This should be taken to replace the previous, insufficient target of a 20% unilateral reduction and a 30% reduction conditional on intransparent criteria.

The EU and its 27 Member States will implement the above emissions reduction target jointly in the framework of the Climate and Energy Legislative Package¹ and any other additional actions necessary. Among other things, this Package consolidates the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme and expands its scope. Pursuant to the 'Effort Sharing Decision', Member States are moreover required to implement policies and measures that are additional to that Scheme in an effort to further limit the greenhouse gas emissions from sources not falling under it.

¹ Decision n° 406/2009/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments up to 2020 and Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003 establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community and amending Council Directive 96/61/EC, as amended by Directive 2009/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009, amending Directive 2003/87/EC so as to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading scheme of the Community.

We would be grateful if the Secretariat would communicate this letter to the other Contracting Parties.

Sincerely,

The image shows four handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right: Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Rebecca Harms, Monica Frassoni, and Philippe Lamberts. The signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Rebecca Harms

Monica Frassoni and Philippe Lamberts

Co-Presidents of the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament

Co-Spokespersons of the European Green Party