



GREENPEACE



Representing over 5 million EU citizens

NGO briefing on the EU 2020 greenhouse gas reduction effort sharing proposal

1. Introduction

2008 and 2009 are crucial years for establishing the robust global agreement that we need in order to have a fighting chance to tackle dangerous Climate Change. The future of the planet absolutely depends on a good international agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Failing to agree on an ambitious EU Climate policy for 2020 will have a significant negative impact on those international negotiations. European policy makers therefore have a huge responsibility resting on their shoulders. **European environmental NGO's call for at least 30% domestic (within the EU) emission reductions by 2020 and on top of that a binding commitment from Member States to support mitigation and adaptation in developing countries.** The effort sharing proposal is also in clear need of robust reporting, compliance and enforcement rules. **Without a direct penalty system ensuring that Member States reduce their emissions year by year, Europe will have a toothless climate change policy.**

2. At least 30% domestic emission reductions

The EU has repeatedly voiced its strong support for keeping the global average temperature rise below +2°C. This commitment now needs to be backed-up by strengthening the European Commissions proposal and firmly committing to at least 30% domestic emission reductions by 2020. The modest 20% reduction proposed which includes a significant part of off-setting through the use of external credits is equivalent to a global temperature trajectory of more than +3°C¹! Watering down the ambition level (through allowing more off-setting) could lead to global temperature increases of more than 4°C!

3. Sustainable Support for developing countries in mitigation and adaptation

The European Union is in the position to generate a break-through on the international stage by committing to additional binding emission reduction commitments in developing countries. In Bali it was agreed that developing countries action is contingent on developed country support. The EU aims to be a leader in the global climate negotiations and showing willingness to provide that support to developing countries is key to deliver an international deal that will keep global warming below 2 degrees. Furthermore developing

¹ This assessment is based on the GHG concentration scenario's mentioned in the IPCC 4th assessment report. We assume that all industrialised nations take on similar efforts as the EU.

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countries are owed compensation for adapting to now-unavoidable impacts of climate change, which to date have largely been caused by our historical greenhouse emissions. This should be done in the form of additional and grant-based financial assistance.

Providing substantial mitigation and adaptation finance to developing countries will be key to move international negotiations into the direction of an agreement which is consistent with $<+2^{\circ}\text{C}$. It is the only way to convince industrialising developing countries to commit to a substantial deviation of business as usual emissions. The latter, in its turn, is the best remedy against carbon leakage.

Use of external credits by the EU should only be allowed in a framework of binding additional emission reduction support for developing countries, not as a form of off-setting. In addition the only standard that provides the best level of assurance that emission reductions are additional and that they support sustainable development is the CDM Gold Standard². To remain credible in helping developing countries address the challenges of greenhouse gas mitigation, the EU has to support a high quality standard for external credits.

4. Missing compliance

The EU's climate change legislation needs to be backed with credible compliance and enforcement rules. This is clearly missing in the European Commission's current proposal. European environmental NGO's are calling for better and faster reporting - an essential first step in having good compliance- and sanctions in the form of financial penalties for Member States that under-perform. The EU cannot afford to have a weak climate change legislation that does not go beyond the lengthy infringement procedure, when annual emission cuts need to be achieved.

[CONTACTS]

² The Gold Standard is a standard for Clean Development Mechanism projects developed by the Gold Standard foundation (www.cdmgoldstandard.org)