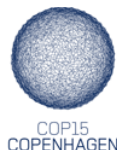


Building a post-2012 global climate regime

European Union COP-15 information sheet



Swedish Presidency
of the European Union



European Commission

Industrialised countries must lead through deep emission reductions

- *Developed countries must take the lead in cutting GHG emissions by committing to an aggregate 30% reduction below 1990 levels by 2020*
- *The EU will scale up its emissions reduction target for 2020 from 20% to 30% provided other countries undertake their fair share of a global emission reduction effort*
- *The EU supports an 80-95% cut in developed countries' collective emissions below 1990 levels by 2050*
- *Environmental integrity must be secured. This means for example that the issue of unused Assigned Amount Units from the period 2008-2012 must be addressed in a way that does not affect the environmental integrity of the post-2012 agreement*

International action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions must aim to keep global warming below **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

EU emission commitments for 2020

- Unilateral commitment to cut at least **20%** below 1990 levels. To achieve this, the EU is already implementing a package of climate and energy legislation as well as a major programme to improve energy efficiency.
- Conditional commitment to cut **30%** below 1990, provided other industrialised countries agree to comparable emission reductions and developing countries contribute adequately to a global deal according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.

show is needed to put global emissions onto a trajectory compatible with the 2°C limit.

At the least, all Annex 1 countries and all European Union Member States, EU candidate countries and potential EU candidate countries should commit to ambitious QELROs.

All developed countries (and all developing nations except the Least Developed Countries) should commit to preparing ambitious and credible **low carbon 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.

When deciding whether to scale up its 2020 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
- 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 first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol must be addressed in a way that does not affect the environmental integrity of the post-2012

agreement and does not discriminate between Parties.

Under Kyoto's rules these AAUs can be carried over for use in the second commitment period. The amount of unused AAUs from all Parties with targets in the first commitment period is estimated at up to **10 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent**, which could significantly affect the ambition level of emission targets set in the post-2012 agreement.

Monitoring, reporting and verification

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** and sending regular **National Communications** to the UNFCCC forms a good basis on which to build future MRV of developed countries' emissions mitigation targets.

In addition the **independent expert review** system has proven useful not only in ensuring the integrity of the mitigation efforts made but also in building Parties' capacities in this area. The reviews have contributed to increasing the resources that Parties allocate to the MRV process and also to ensuring that they put in place adequate systems to monitor and report on their performance.

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