



13 June 2018

EU for Talanoa | summary

Working together to accelerate global climate action

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- The EU must continue its global leadership and be ready to do more. This is needed in the current geopolitical circumstances more than ever. The multilateral world order and plurilateral fora such as the G7 are facing unprecedented challenges. All countries need to join forces to defend global solidarity and cooperation.
- The responsibility to act is collective and individual. It extends beyond governments and policymakers. All stakeholders – including youth organisations, businesses, NGOs, investors, trade unions, consumers, cities and regions, expert organisations and academia – must be involved in finding solutions and showcasing action.
- Business and investor engagement and leadership will be vital in driving the change. Transforming our economy and our society will be challenging but it is both possible and desirable. It will not only bring about a clean planet but also enhance our prosperity. To achieve this, the international community must collectively aim at greater ambition.
- The debate on ambition must be tackled in fora that extend well beyond the climate community, including at the UN Secretary General's Climate summit of 2019. Global leaders need to have the courage to consider how to deliver on the Paris vision and objectives, in line also with the Sustainable Development Goals. The examples of solutions and technologies by the «real economy» are a key ingredient in that reflection.
- A meaningful political outcome of the Talanoa discussions – and the only logical response –, is a commitment by all governments to reflect on their domestic efforts and level of ambition in light of both (i) the Talanoa and (ii) the findings of the IPCC special report on 1,5 degrees. Future policy work, including the mid-century strategies due by 2020, should factor in the latest scientific evidence and the knowledge of the available solutions. The EU is committed to respond accordingly, including in the context of the Commission vision for an EU Long Term emission reduction strategy.
- The forthcoming EU long term Strategy will be the Commission's proposal. It will launch a broad based societal debate and a round of extensive consultations. Governments cannot succeed without the support and involvement their constituencies – citizens and stakeholders – pushing them forward.
- Robust domestic policies and measures, longer term strategies and incentive structures chart the governments' direction of travel and provide predictability and certainty to the public and economic actors. The policies and measures must be developed with involvement – and the support – of the stakeholders. This is the only way to develop policies that match reality and ensure a just transition.
- Adopting a clear and comprehensive set of governance and transparency rules for implementing the Paris Agreement is a crucial stepping stone for delivering on commitments. The governments have the responsibility to ensure this objective is achieved in Katowice as this sends an important signal to stakeholders and citizens around the world, that the international community is serious about addressing climate change and moving towards a low-emission and resilient economy.

Overview of the sessions and main messages

On June 13, the European Commission convened a [EU regional Talanoa event in Brussels](#), which brought together around 600 people, ranging the breadth of the NGO community, business representatives, EU Member States, European cities and regions, international organisations and third country representatives. During the event the EU underlined its track record of delivery on ambitious climate policy and commitment to global leadership as detailed in its Talanoa submission (<https://unfccc.int/documents/65427>) and invited all governments to provide a credible response to the Talanoa by reporting on both concrete action and progress made in implementing policies and measures three years after Paris Agreement.

The event (see programme attached) was structured around the 3 framing questions of Talanoa: «*where are we?*», «*where do we want to go?*» and «*how do we get there?*». The format allowed for inclusive and interactive exchange of views with a broad range of stakeholders. The conference is hoped to serve as an invitation and example for other governments around the world to organize similar conversations with their citizen and stakeholders ahead of the political phase of the Talanoa Dialogue at COP24, in Katowice.

The full opening speech of the host – **Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete** – can be viewed at:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-18-4154_en.htm

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SESSION I - «WHERE WE ARE?»

The Opening session conveyed the different stories linked to the implementation of the EU's goals on climate action.

Mr ALVARADO MARTINEZ (*European Youth Forum*), **Mr PICCARD** (*Solar Impulse*) and **Commissioner ARIAS CAÑETE** (*EC*) opened the Conference contextualising the EU's leadership in the context of post-Paris Agreement, but also their expectations regarding opportunities for enhancing climate action in the EU. This was followed by discussion with three panellist: **Mr BRODIN** (*CEO of IKEA*), **Ms. LAERNOS** (*representing Nantes Metropole*) and **Ms. MORGAN** (*Greenpeace International*) who discussed the significant scale of the challenge and outlined inspirational real-life stories from businesses, local authorities and non-governmental actors respectively. General topics addressed during the discussed related to:

- ★ **Role of existing legal and policy frameworks for addressing climate change, e.g. what “best practice” examples and business models have successfully driven climate change action?**
- ★ **Examples of successful leadership and partnerships**
- ★ **Role of cities and more broadly the role of non-state actors in implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions and driving enhanced ambition.**

Key speaker messages from session I:

Commissioner ARIAS CAÑETE re-affirmed the Commission's commitment to the Talanoa Dialogue, which – now almost three years after Paris – is a credibility test for international action as it offers the first chance at political level to take stock of progress against the agreed goals. The Commissioner also conveyed that the EU is ready to discuss the collective ambition of all NDCs in light of the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report and the outcome of the Talanoa Dialogue. He flagged that, depending on results of legislative discussions on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy targets, the EU may be in a position to raise its level of ambition and go beyond the current 2030 target of at least -40%. He also informed that before COP24 the Commission will put forward a vision for an EU long-term strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which will be looking at different scenarios.

Mr ALVARADO MARTINEZ invited participants to reflect on the responsibility the society had towards the young generation – how it was imperative that action taken today would not compromise their futures. He reminded participants of the role of youth in taking early climate action in their own everyday lives and in informing decision makers of their demands and expectations. Mr Alvarado Martinez insisted that global efforts fell far short from adequate and called for a serious response by governments around the world as well as the wider society.

Mr PICCARD stressed how today was «a time for hope». In his view, when talking about innovation, it's not a question of having new ideas or new technologies, but more a question of getting rid of old habits. The technologies we have today should be harnessed in order to encourage governments to implement much more ambitious energy policies and set more ambitious climate and environmental targets. He insisted this is possible today and to ensure growth, you need to shift to clean innovation.

Mr BRODIN of IKEA drew attention to the journey many businesses and society at large had seen «from denial to confusion to now». He stressed how taking action on climate change is not only the right thing to do for people and the planet, it's necessary for long-term success as accompany, as setting science-based targets will challenge companies to find new and better ways to do business, as well as drive innovation and renewal. He used his intervention to encourage other companies to join IKEA in accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy which boosts investment, employment and innovation and detailed the Group's ambitious targets for 2030.

Ms LAERNOS focused on the role of the cities and sub-regional actors in driving climate ambition through concrete action. She elaborated on the role of the global initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors, as catalyst platforms that allowed exchange of best practices and knowledge sharing.

Ms MORGAN underscored that Europe is needed more than ever. In her view defending the Paris Agreement was defending multilateralism. With plurilateral fora such as the G7 failing to deliver, there needed to be inclusive processes to make countries work together. She stressed that NGOs needed to push for ambition and take initiatives for concrete actions and success stories of sustainable solutions for everyday problems. She insisted in recognition of the gap that exists between the courage of non-state actors and the low ambition level of governments around the world. In her view, the EU needed to cut more emissions and earlier due to its historical responsibility, however the international spirit should be to work together. Ms Morgan called for a new «Schumann declaration» to drive climate action and put Europe firmly on a long-term track of low-emission, sustainable growth.

Emerging from the debate was a consensus that the EU's ability to design and deliver ambitious policies and legislation is ultimately the result of broad-based consultation with stakeholders, the broader public, businesses and economic actors.

SESSION II - «WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?»

The second session outlined some of the challenges related to enhancing collective ambition. The session was facilitated by **Mr MACIULEVICIUS** (*European Economic and Social Committee*) who framed the discussions around urgency to mobilise different actors. **Ms NORONHA** (*UN Environment*) and **Mr TURK** (*International Energy Agency*) gave keynote speeches, respectively addressing urgency and scope for acceleration of mitigation/adaptation measures and long-term (emission) projections for climate resilience. In the Panel debate that followed **Ms MIR ROCA** (*ETUC*) focused on the importance of ensuring a just transition through dialogue and accompanying measures. **Ambassador CIMA** (*Argentina*) discussed expectations for COP24 and the need for leadership, notably in the context of the G20. **Ambassador SANGQU** (*South Africa*) flagged the crucial importance for many countries of addressing adaptation challenges. **Ambassador COSTELLO** (*Canada*) highlighted the Canadian approach to just transition challenges and how to strengthen leadership and cooperation. **Mr GNASSOUNOU** (*ACP Secretariat*) conveyed the need to communicate more ambitious NDCs by 2020 as well as the need to address provide support and «Means of Implementation». Finally **Mr BEYRER** (*Business Europe*) focussed on the importance for business of clarify of direction, global convergence over time and the role of international rules as well as clear domestic policies and enabling frameworks for the energy/economic transition.

Key messages:

A key message emerging from the discussions was the necessity of identifying Long-term visions around which to rally business and citizens. The real economy of investors, businesses and consumers requires regulatory signals, predictability and enabling environments in order to secure the financial means and investment required to move towards a low-emissions climate resilient future. The slow progress on the “Paris Rulebook” and the absence of accountability and transparency rules, will make it difficult to track compliance with climate targets or promote enhanced ambition.

Another key message from the debate revolved around the issues surrounding Just Transition. Participants highlighted that to boost the clean energy transition we need to also bring more focus on social fairness, new skills and financing for real initiatives on the ground. In this context, an increased focus on the energy transition and more broadly on other topics such as energy poverty, support to social partners and strategic partnerships should be a clear political priority for the EU.

Different interventions also recognised that the significant gap in global ambition requires attention at appropriate levels worldwide and that the challenge is collective and all Parties need to be ready to engage.

In this context, it was referred that most gains in emission reductions will also have to be made beyond the EU, e.g. drawing on the fact that that Europe currently accounts for about 8% and it is expected that in the year 2030 Europe's share of global emissions will have fallen to 5%.

SESSION III - «HOW DO WE GET THERE?»

The third session attempted to flesh-out some of the visions/paths identified in the previous sessions. In a session facilitated by **Mr MARKKULA** (*Vice-President Committee of the Regions*) **Mr BRANDIS** (*BP/BDI*) introduced the recent foresight report «Climate Paths 2050 for Germany» on long-term projections issued by the Confederation of German Industries. **Mr TRIO** (*Climate Action Network Europe*) reflected on the role of NGO's in shaping the EU level policy debates, while **Mr DAMGAARD** (*Institutional Investors Group*) highlighted the climate finance challenge and the steps necessary to enhance finance for sustainable investments.

The session then introduced four concrete initiatives/best-practices identified following a call for Expressions of Interest on:

«A company's vision on climate action», presented by **Mr DE MIERA** (*IBERDROLA*)

«A sustainable future for Fast Moving Consumer Goods», presented by **Mr HOFFMANN** (*Eziserv*)

«Sustainable urban transport in the world's most polluted cities», presented by **Ms. PIERCE-MESSICK** (*Three Wheels United BV*)

«Mitigating climate through forest conservation», presented by **Ms. GAUTIER** (*Conservation International Europe*)

Key messages:

Key messages resulting from the discussions again related to the importance of ensuring enabling environments for the transition to a low emission, climate resilient global economy, e.g. the legal, policy and fiscal frameworks that could underpin fundamental policy shifts and ensure coordination of efforts (partnerships) by different actors.

Different interventions emphasised how citizens around the world are demanding climate action and that to effectively address the challenge of climate change, we should not limit action to state actors but rather open the door to all those who bring solutions and actions and in particular more focus should be devoted to harnessing bottom-up approaches.

CLOSING SESSION – «TOWARDS THE POLITICAL PHASE OF TALANOA»

The closing session identified some expectations/issues for further reflection and consideration during the Political phase at COP24, and drew some conclusions on the basis of the discussions during the day.

Key speaker messages:

Deputy Minister KURTYKA (*incoming Polish Presidency*) outlined expectations for the Political Phase discussions which should draw from all the information gathered throughout this year's Talanoa national and regional Dialogues.

Executive Secretary ESPINOSA (*UNFCCC Secretariat*) referred to some of the stories heard in the first phase of the Talanoa Dialogue during the May session, which have injected a dose of encouragement towards building the necessary ambition to limit temperature rise in line with the Paris Agreement. She recognised how stories so far have been encouraging, some have been worrying, but all make the case for enhanced ambition. She also conveyed that the Ministerial phase of Talanoa opened opportunities for countries to seize on the political momentum and respond to citizens' aspirations for a low emission and climate resilient society. Responding to the Talanoa required courage from all countries.

Ambassador SARAN (*FIJI Presidency*) flagged the importance of having as deliverable of Talanoa a political agreement to raise ambition, in line with the expectations of billions of ordinary citizens. He recalled how in the context of the G7 the international community had just witnessed fresh strains in the current global arrangements; while underlining how now, more than ever, the entire global community must stand shoulder to shoulder to confront the climate threat. In this context, he urged the EU to show leadership and encourage also others to pursue more ambition, notably through policy signals, finance and guidance.

Director General for Climate Action Mr. PETRICCIONE (*European Commission*) closed the event signalling that the EU was committed to sustain climate action leadership, as reflected in the EU's first technical submission to Talanoa, while underlining that the stakes require similar leadership and openness from all partners, in particular major emitters. In this context he flagged that – being responsible for some 8% of today's global emissions – the EU will need to focus its efforts increasingly to helping others accelerate their action. Finally he conveyed that a meaningful political outcome of – and the only logical response to – Talanoa discussions at COP24 in Katowice in December, should be a commitment by all governments to reflect on their domestic efforts and level of ambition in light of both (i) the Talanoa, and (ii) the findings of the IPCC special report on 1,5 degrees. Future policy work, including the mid-century strategies due by 2020, should factor in the latest scientific evidence and the knowledge of the available solutions. He confirmed that the EU would respond accordingly.

Throughout different interventions there was widespread agreement that concluding on the Paris Rulebook at COP24 would be an important stepping stone towards delivering Paris commitments and providing evidence to the broader public about collective progress to address climate change.



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