

## **SUMMARY OF ONLINE SUBMISSIONS: POLITICAL ACTORS AND AGENCIES**

*The views here represented are those of the submissions to the Commission's online consultation and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Commission.*

*Each bullet pointed entry has been proffered by at least one submission to the consultation; those expressed in bold font reflect commonly expressed views. The views expressed are in no particular order and are the author's paraphrasing of the submitter's position. The full documents can be found online at: [http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/action\\_climat/library](http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/action_climat/library)*

**Number of submissions: 15** (including 4 from Umbrella Group countries, 6 from regional governments and regional coordination groups, and 5 from government advisory bodies)

### **Summary**

A broad range of views was expressed, leading to little overall coherence in viewpoint. However, a few areas of commonality arose.

It was felt that the EU should continue to show leadership, within a multilateral context. The need to address climate change over longer timeframes than at present was also raised. The UNFCCC framework was held to be the appropriate forum for future action, although there was a suggestion for informal parallel confidence building meetings. Several papers called for a precautionary approach to be taken; binding commitments were seen as one means of achieving this, while others called for sectoral targets applied in such a way as to avoid disadvantaging industry in the global marketplace. Cost effectiveness was regarded as an important consideration in deciding on which measures to adopt and flexibility was seen as a key way in which this could be achieved. There were arguments made in favour of greater recognition being granted to adaptation measures.

There was general agreement on the need for a multilateral approach that includes both the big emitters, but also developing countries, although it was recognized that different types of participation are appropriate for different countries, particularly those at different stages of development. There were calls for more bottom up action and making use of regional political infrastructure. Nuclear had its proponents, as did renewable energy sources.

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### 1) Is it important for the EU to continue to show leadership on addressing climate change?

- Japan has a responsibility to lead international discussions towards the construction of a truly sustainable future framework
- The US plays a leading role in technological development to address climate change

- **The EU should continue to demonstrate and develop leadership**
  - **The EU should not act unilaterally**
  - **International cooperation is essential in tackling climate change**
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2) On the basis of the EU's 2°C long-term objective, what objectives should the EU set for global and EU climate change policy (including targets, timeframes and pathways for emission reductions)?

- Ozone precursors and particle emissions (including CO, VOCs, BC aerosols, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and OC aerosols) should be included in future climate agreements, commitments should be introduced gradually as the science becomes less uncertain, but the regime should remain 'climate only'
  - The flawed science of the IPCC should be treated with scepticism before rushing to act on the panel's conclusions
  - The scientific work of the IPCC should form the basis for policy decisions
  - Climate change should be addressed with a long term perspective
  - Growing global emissions must be reversed to a decline in the early part of this century and to less than half of current levels in the long run
  - **The precautionary approach to policy making should be taken, in light of the inherent scientific uncertainties**
  - **Timeframes need to be defined in longer terms to encourage investment in R&D in technologies and to increase cost-effectiveness**
  - National reduction targets for absolute emissions carry the risk of hot air
  - **Binding commitments should be part of the post 2012 architecture**
  - **Transboundary and sectoral intensity targets should be employed to ensure a level playing field**
  - Each country should have the flexibility to choose the specific actions that form the basis of their mitigation efforts
  - Adaptation and mitigation measures both need to be considered
  - Any targets should be fair and include relative parameters
  - The EU bubble should remain in place
  - Sustainability criteria (triple bottom line) must be considered in an integrated way
  - The 2°C target is acceptable
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3) What type and level of participation should the future climate change regime seek from developed and developing countries, what should be the timeframe for such participation and what should be the contribution from the EU and other countries?

- **The involvement of the US and other major emitters in a future regime is vital**

- **Developing countries will need to act domestically to reduce their emissions, without limiting their sustainable development**
- **Developing countries should not have binding targets over the short term, but this should be limited by thresholds that once crossed imply certain types of action are expected**
- **The future framework must enable each country to take effective measures, taking into account medium and long term considerations**
- The future framework must be attractive to encourage participation: trade sanctions are difficult to implement
- Sanctions measures against free riders should be discussed
- Developed countries need to promote private sector investment in energy and environmental activities in developing countries
- Regional level cooperation on issues such as energy saving should be encouraged eg with Japan in Asia and the US in Latin America
- Developing countries should be encouraged to implement ‘unilateral CDM’ projects ie reduce their emissions without targets or industrialised country support
- Local authorities should be given greater support in promoting climate friendly activities with local businesses and householders
- Policies should allow greater bottom up freedom of action
- Ideological positions should not form the basis of the debate
- There should be a massive transfer of technologies to developing countries
- Ambitious emissions reduction targets should be adopted
- Financial and capital transfers to developing countries should be linked to sustainability criteria
- The long term aim should be for per capita emissions rights
- There should be full carbon accounting
- An informal international dialog should be implemented in order to find other possible paths around issues that have been deadlocked within the UNFCCC process: this may help to build trust between countries
- The G77 as a whole might take on a target as a whole and then decide how to share emissions reductions within their bubble
- Countries should be allowed to arrange themselves into cooperative groups

#### [4\) Which technical solutions should be allowed or promoted \(eg renewable energy, nuclear energy, C sequestration, C capture and storage\)?](#)

- EURATOM should be terminated
- **Nuclear energy should be included as part of the solution**
- Further research is needed into the quantities, impacts and lifetimes of emitted ozone precursors and particle emissions
- Energy efficiency has been shown, with Japan as a case study, to increase competitiveness
- Energy efficiency should be promoted
- Clean technologies, including PVs and wind should be developed further

- **Renewables should play an increasing role in energy supply**
- Governments need to support technology industries through policies and measures
- Different countries need to define their own R&D priorities in line with national circumstances
- R&D budgets should be increased
- Emissions are spread too far across many sources for changes in technology to be made easily and rapidly
- Existent technologies are either too immature or non-existent to deal with the problem: many will not be commercial for 20-40 years
- Oceanic sinks are limited by silicate concentrations, and not enough of this could be manufactured to take up anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> in the quantities required
- The world's deserts should be covered with a reflective surface to increase surface albedo eg white plastic on an aluminized plastic back
- PV arrays should be introduced on a large scale
- Expanding boreal forests could have unhelpful albedo effects
- **Local authorities have an important role in promoting energy management and efficiency and small scale renewables**
- Local authorities have an important role in promoting sustainable transportation, particularly integrated urban transport systems
- Transport technology should be improved
- Energy supply and demand side issues should be addressed
- Biomass and hydrogen should also be included in the future energy mix
- Buildings should be well insulated to reduced emissions from heating and cooling

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[5\) Should the future global climate regime maintain the key elements of the Kyoto Protocol, including the Kyoto Mechanisms \(JI, CDM and emissions trading\) and what other elements should such a regime contain?](#)

- The EU must promote energy efficiency and changes of lifestyle within its borders
- **Measures must be cost effective and not adversely impact competitiveness**
- **The UNFCCC should remain the basis for future architecture**
- The basket approach should continue and targets expressed in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents
- **Flexibility is important: the flexibility mechanisms should remain and even be extended**
- Emissions trading should be based on reliable inventories of emissions
- The CDM should be developed further to promote technology transfer
- The CDM should be a transitional instrument
- The CDM should have a list of approved energy saving technologies to hasten project implementation and acceptance
- Best practice standards should be set for each type of facility

- Developed countries should be limited to the number of CERs that they can claim to a certain percentage of emission reduction generated from each project
  - CER acquisition obligations should be introduced to developing countries
  - Additionality approval should be granted for projects that have paybacks longer than a certain criterion (eg 2 years)
  - Transportation needs to be addressed
  - The regime should include regular reviews of commitments, incorporating new scientific data
  - Non-compliance should be addressed through supporting “fundamentally good” Parties, rather than through punishment of the “fundamentally bad”
  - **Adaptation needs to be more explicitly addressed**
  - Local level involvement and coordination should play a greater role in the future regime
  - Sinks schemes need to be made more attractive
  - There should be an ongoing cost benefit analysis for post 2012 policies
  - The framework needs to be long term and stable to allow business planning
  - The system should be based on emission convergence and the transfer of technologies
  - Public awareness needs to be increased, through schools, universities and the media to promote energy efficiency
  - There should be a second protocol to the UNFCCC addressing terrestrial ecosystems and their role in climate change
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6) What are the costs of taking future action on climate change, including competitiveness impacts, and how can/ should impacts be addressed?

- Decisions should be made in a timely and well-informed manner, factored into a cost-benefit analysis
  - Loss of competitiveness is a danger if unilateral, or non other non-equitably shared emissions reductions are required under the regime
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7) What are the benefits of taking further action on climate change, including avoided damages, competitiveness impacts and ancillary benefits, and how can/ should these be encouraged or optimised?

- Reductions in adverse impacts on health and environment
- Co-benefits should be emphasized to induce greater participation in future climate agreements
- Climate action should have benefits to economic development
- Action should take into account the synergies on a global level to promote clean development