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Commissioner Hedegaard to hold climate talks in US and Mexico this week

Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, will visit the United States and Mexico this week for bilateral and international meetings on climate change. Teresa Ribera, Spanish Secretary of State for Climate Change, will represent the Spanish Presidency of the Council. The purpose of the visits will be to discuss follow-up to the December 2009 UN climate conference in Copenhagen and how to take forward the international negotiations on a global climate agreement for the post-2012 period. The visits form part of the consultation of key international partners that Commission President Barroso has asked Commissioner Hedegaard to undertake to find ways to reinvigorate the international process (see [MEMO/10/41](#)). They follow the Commission's adoption on 9 March of a Communication which has the same objective (see [IP/10/255](#)). Commissioner Hedegaard will hold talks in Washington on 17-18 March with Todd Stern, US Special Envoy for Climate Change, Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, and Carol Browner, President Obama's Assistant on energy and climate policy. On 18 March Commissioner Hedegaard will speak at the National Press Club and at a lunch organised by the Institute for 21st Century Energy before flying to Mexico City where she will hold talks with Canada's Ambassador for Climate Change, Michael Martin. On 19 March she will participate in an informal international consultation meeting hosted by Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba, Mexico's Special Envoy on Climate Change. Commissioner Hedegaard will also meet President Felipe Calderón and Environment Minister Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada and speak at a meeting of the Mexican Senate's Environment Committee. She will also meet business representatives and non-governmental organisations. Mexico will host the next UN climate conference, in Cancún at the end of this year.