



Climate Action: Europe readies next steps to implement the Paris Agreement

Brussels, 2 March 2016

Today, the European Commission presented an assessment of the implications for the European Union of the new global climate agreement adopted in Paris in December 2015.

The assessment looks at the next steps in the process and how the Paris Agreement will be implemented in the EU. The assessment is also accompanied by a proposal for the European Union to sign the Paris Agreement.

Vice-President for the Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič said: *"The Paris Agreement sends a strong signal that the world is moving towards a global clean energy transition. We want to maintain the first mover advantage, notably in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Under the Energy Union strategy we want to create an environment that allows investors and businesses to fully seize these new opportunities, and consequently be able to generate new jobs and growth. There are also significant opportunities for our cities. After all, it is in urban areas where an important part of the transition will actually happen. We will speed up our work in this field."*

EU Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete said: *"We have the deal. Now we need to make it real. For the EU, this means completing the 2030 climate and energy legislation without delay, signing and ratifying the Agreement as soon as possible, and continuing our leadership in the global transition to a low-carbon future. Through our climate diplomacy, the EU will push to keep climate change at the top of the international political agenda. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but as we did in Paris, we will persevere and succeed."*

Main conclusions of the assessment:

- **The Paris Agreement:** The Paris Agreement is the first multilateral agreement on climate change covering almost all of the world's emissions. It is a success for the world and a confirmation of the EU's path to a low carbon economy. The EU's negotiation strategy was decisive in reaching the Agreement.
- **Signature and ratification:** The early ratification and entry into force of the Paris Agreement will give the legal certainty that the Agreement begins operating quickly. Therefore, the Paris Agreement should be signed and ratified as soon as possible. Today's assessment accompanies a proposal for a Council decision on the signing of the Paris Agreement on behalf of the European Union.
- **Periodic reviews:** The EU will need to be ready to participate in the review processes under the Paris Agreement designed to ensure the achievement of the goal of keeping climate change well below 2°C and pursuing efforts towards 1.5°C. To develop an understanding of the implications of a 1.5°C goal, and as the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was inconclusive on this aspect the IPCC has been requested to prepare a special report in 2018. The EU will provide input to the scientific work being carried out internationally for that purpose. Further, by 2020, all countries should communicate their mid-century, long-term decarbonisation strategies. To facilitate the preparation of the EU's strategy, the Commission will prepare an in-depth analysis of the economic and social transformations in order to feed the political debate in the European Parliament, Council and with stakeholders.
- **2030 climate and energy legislation:** In October 2014 the European Council agreed on the 2030 climate and energy policy framework for the EU setting an ambitious economy-wide domestic target of at least 40% greenhouse gas emission reduction for 2030. The Paris Agreement vindicates the EU's approach. Implementing the 2030 energy and climate framework as agreed by the European Council is a priority in follow up to the Paris Agreement. The forthcoming legislative proposals should be fast-tracked by the European Parliament and the Council.
- **Energy transition:** The EU needs to consolidate the enabling environment for the transition to a low carbon economy through a wide range of interacting policies and instruments reflected under the Energy Union Strategy, one of the 10 priorities of the Juncker Commission.
- **Global diplomacy and global action:** The EU will need to step up its international climate

diplomacy to maintain the political momentum and support other countries in the implementation of the Agreement and their climate plans. In this respect, the EU remains committed to scaling up the mobilisation of international climate finance.

Next steps

The immediate next steps are the signature and ratification of the Paris Agreement. The Agreement will open for signatures on 22 April 2016 in New York, and enter into force when at least 55 Parties representing at least 55% of global emissions have ratified.

The Commission will present during the next 12 months the key remaining legislative proposals to implement the 2030 framework. This includes proposals for an Effort-Sharing Decision for sectors not covered by the EU Emission Trading Scheme and on land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), legislation to set up a reliable and transparent climate and energy governance mechanism for the post-2020 period, and the necessary policy proposals to adapt the EU's regulatory framework in order to put energy efficiency first and to foster EU's role as a world leader in the field of renewable energy.

For more information:

[COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL of 2 March 2016](#)

[Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the EU, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)

[Energy Union Strategy](#)

[Paris COP21: International climate negotiations](#)

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