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### *The second statement of European Union to the draft of Forum for 21.century on environmental issues*

To the environmental priorities of European Union belong climate change linked with biodiversity protection, sustainable consumption and production. European Union considers all proposes of Forum for 21.century as important issues which should be discussed worldwide. On the other hand, it is complicated to reach an agreement during one day meeting and therefore suggests focusing on 4 following issues. Emission reduction, energy efficiency, biodiversity and deforestation are linked together and intertwined.

#### **Emission reduction and energy efficiency**

As mentioned in the first statement, European Union has adopted the 20-20-20% targets, which are cutting greenhouse gases by 20%, reducing energy consumption by 20% and meeting 20% of energy needs by renewable resources. The position of European Union in the area of emission reduction is unchanged and insists reducing the emissions by 30% compared to the year 1990. Developed countries should demonstrate their leadership and commit to emission reduction by 80 ó 95% by 2050 compared to 1990. Therefore, developing countries should commit to appropriate mitigation action. The propose of 5% increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of non-OECD countries is not sufficient and European Union suggests to reduce the emission in other areas, not only in industry. Promotion of low carbon industry, decrease of deforestation or propagation of energy efficiency should have positive effect on emission reduction. The European Union underlines the need for measuring, reporting and verification of mitigation actions in all countries.

Emission reduction is directly linked with energy efficiency. Energy efficiency is the most

Cost effective way to reduce emissions which make energy consumption more affordable for consumers as well as create employment and improves energy security and competitiveness. Energy efficiency is one of the central objectives for 2020 as well as a key factor in achieving our long-term energy and climate goals

European Union is prepared to take 4 actions. The first focuses on the biggest energy-saving potential - buildings and transport. Energy criteria like renewable and smart networking should be used in all public procurement of works, products and services. Energy target projects should be supported and financed by programs. The second action is based on reinforcing industrial competitiveness by making industry more efficient. There should be

Energy-management schemes (audits, plans or energy managers) implemented into serviced sector and industry. The third action insists on energy supply. Using of instrument such as white certificates, public benefit charges and smart meters should provide real benefits for customers. Energy certificate should be done before a construction of buildings to bring benefits and saving of energy. For the implementation of new challenges and needs is important to implement an Energy efficiency action plan at the worldwide level.

## Biodiversity

The year 2010 is the year of biodiversity and protection of biodiversity is one of the main targets of European Union. Biodiversity has a positive impact on climate change. Forum for 21st century should be momentum to strengthen implementation of three objectives: conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of biodiversity and sharing of the benefits from genetic resources at the international level. European Union considers as urgency to protect the biodiversity and insists on international trade agreements, where is the key element the sustainability of products. EU underlines the need to integrate non-trade concerns, including production methods and respect for biodiversity, in future WTO agreements. Union welcomes the agreement reached by governments in June 2010 to create Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) but is also open for improving and better sharing of knowledge and technologies relating to biodiversity, among all participating countries. Although biofuel is renewable resource of energy it is important to assess direct and indirect impacts of it on biodiversity and establish sustainability criteria and certification. European Union emphasizes the need to protect ecosystem resilience by taking measures to prevent the widespread release of genetically modified organisms, taking into full account the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and supports the signing of agreement which would lead to accomplishing sustainable biodiversity.

## Deforestation

Forests are an important sphere for the European Union. They cover 37, 8 % of European territory and provide a living for 3.4 million people. Loss of forests leads to loss of biodiversity and of ecosystem services. European Union believes that the international objective should be to stop global forest cover loss by 2030 at the latest and *reduce gross tropical deforestation by 2020 at least by 50%*. European Union is prepared to support programs which prevent loss of biodiversity and soil degradation and halving gross deforestation is one of the solutions.

The global forest carbon mechanism (GFCM) will be managed by following principles. The developing countries that ratify climate agreement will benefit from GFCM. This Mechanism support the capacity building and means financial support for countries. Beneficiary countries need to have effective forest governance structures. To achieve the aims, emission cuts must be monitored and accounted for at national level. The main benefit from EU funding for CFCM could come from proceeds from auctioning of emission allowances under the EU emissions Trading System. It is necessary to improve governance and resolve technical issues, such as monitoring using satellites and other technologies. Deforestation is a worldwide problem and reduces of deforestation and forest wealth preservation should be promoted and financed by all countries.

One of the priorities of European Union is reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and encourages the countries to sign an agreement on reduction of deforestation.

### Water resources

Water resources are limited and are crucial for the sole existence of life. European Union considers as important issue to protect the water resources. There are several solutions mentioned in the first statement, which could be discussed worldwide. European Union supports the initiative to sign an agreement in which participating countries would be committed to the protection of surface and groundwater. Small rivers and tributaries should be checked whether there are dirty or not and when they are the polluters should be found and punished. Other way how to support this initiative is adopting the legislation, which would lead to protecting the water resources.

### Technology transfer mechanism

European Union took the position to technology transfer mechanism in the first statement. EU is prepared to discuss about this topic because is very important for developed and also developing countries. For the first step considers the protection of intellectual property rights. Least developed countries could have exceptions in adopting this mechanism.