



**GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**
ENVIRONMENTÁLNA
SEKCIA

Forum for 21st century **on Green Solutions**






Position of European Union for the purpose of the conference held by the Forum for 21st Century

The European Union would like to thank the Forum for the 21st Century for its interest in contemporary environmental issues. The European Union would like to stress that it is in its best interest to find solutions to the problems described in the draft and after their thorough analysis would like to present its position and proposals for considerations.

The EUROPEAN UNION:

- 🌐 **ACKNOWLEDGES** the paramount importance of the basic needs of human beings such as water, health, food and shelter and the potential danger to these needs which is presented by the phenomenon of climate change and global warming. The EU is constantly trying to avoid dangerous drastic changes in environment and in its environmental policy it consistently tries to reduce emissions of so-called greenhouse gases in order to provide sustainable development of environment and clean air for future generations. Therefore, EU also encourages other nations and regions to do likewise.
- 🌐 **IS IN CONSENT** to the internationally accepted agreement that the global warming level should be kept below 2° C compared to the temperature in the pre-industrial times. Therefore a temperature increase must be kept of no more than 1,2°C above its current level. According to EUs scientific studies, the evidence shows that the growth in global greenhouse gas emissions has to be stopped by 2020 at the latest and the amount of greenhouse gases has to be reduced by at least half of 1990 levels by 2050.
- 🌐 **UNDERLINES** the importance of Kyoto Protocol from the year 1997 which was one of the most important international actions in terms of reducing global greenhouse gases. The European Union committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions even further than generally agreed five per cent and the EU member states agreed on collective reduction of emission by 8% below 1990 levels. However, EU acknowledges the lack of ratification of Kyoto Protocol by some of the world's key greenhouse gas emitters and the deficiency of its law enforcement, and therefore lays emphasis on the necessity to achieve international agreement which will eliminate the defects of Kyoto Protocol and which will stress the importance of worldwide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- 🌐 **HIGHLIGHTS** its effort to cut the level of emissions for 2020 to 20% below its 1990 levels as part of its Europe 2020 growth strategy. Stresses legal binding of this goal by its legislation and declares its readiness to push these responsibilities even further in order to reduce emissions by 80-95% in comparison to the 1990 levels.
- 🌐 **WELCOMES** efforts of ASEAN countries to support the use of renewable energies and encourages all of the other regions and its partners to take a similar action in order to reduce global emissions and protect environment.



- 
 ACKNOWLEDGES the contributions of deforestation to the climate change and declares its goal of its environmental policy represented as readiness to reduce gross tropical deforestation by at least 50% by 2020. EU also encourages other countries to adapt its goals in the context of deforestation in order to secure sustainable environment.
- 
 AGREES with adopting an international agreement, which would replace lapsing Kyoto Protocol, and which would handle key issues as reducing greenhouse gas and dioxin emissions and increasing the usage of green energies. The European Union declares, that it will continue to press for a framework that is ambitious, comprehensive and legally binding and its readiness to adopt this new initiative as soon as possible.
- 
 SUPPORTS the goal of the Forum to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 30% compared to 1990 levels, for 2020/5 and to increase the ratio of usage of alternative sources of energy over total sources of energy by 20%. Furthermore, the EU PROPOSES that **all Parties should take on legally binding commitments to mitigate their emissions** but Parties' substantive obligations would be differentiated in accordance with the UNFCCC principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities." However, this principle is not static and needs to be interpreted in a dynamic way that reflects changes in global economic realities since it was established in 1992. Greater **differentiation of obligations amongst developing countries** is therefore needed.
- 
 CONFIRMS the need to create a Committee, which would observe meeting the targets and goals of new international agreement. The EU also proposes a **common accounting system**, which would make it possible to compare actions taken by different countries and check whether the world is on track to stay within the temperature ceiling. There should also be a **robust system of measurement, reporting and verification** to show Parties are delivering on their commitments. However, the European Union calls for the more precise formulation of the proposed composition of the Committee and also for the replacement of a vague definition of contributions to the Fund. The EU suggests that the Committee will be represented by one representative from each contractor, whereas the EU will be represented in this Committee as one unit.
- 
 REAFFIRMS the necessity to support the developing countries in their strive to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. **Significant financial resources will be needed to help developing countries deal adequate with climate change, both to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the consequences of climate change phenomenon.** As the world's leading donor of development aid, the European Union already provides substantial funding to help developing countries tackle climate change, including € 7.2 billion in "fast start" financing over 2010-2012. The global framework must include **climate finance for developing countries**, in return for meaningful and transparent action to mitigate their emissions. This funding should be used for emissions mitigation, adaptation to climate change and combating deforestation, with capacity building and technology cooperation as cross-cutting issues.