



**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 21st century for summarizing the positions of participating parties to the first draft and proposing additional topics for further discussions. At the same time EU expresses its full support towards solving essential challenges occurring with the climate change. Therefore, after an in-depth analysis of the second draft proposed by Forum for 21st Century and according to EUs positions presented in its first standpoint EU would like to stress its positions as following:

The European Union:

- 🌐 **REAFFIRMS** its intention to sign a new international environmental agreement- the Green Act by 2013, which will be a successful successor of lapsing Kyoto Protocol and which will be an internationally recognized platform for reducing world's greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by year 2020. The EU suggests that this new agreement will be negotiated in accordance with the knowledge of generally notorious flaws of Kyoto Protocol in order to avoid them. Therefore, The European Union declares once again, that it will continue to press for a framework that is ambitious, comprehensive and legally binding and declares its readiness to adopt this new initiative as soon as possible.
- 🌐 **IS IN CONSENT** with the creation of the Green Act Fund and a Committee as a result of signing a new international agreement the Green Act. However, the EU sees some fundamental flaws of the proposal of the Forum for 21st Century, regarding the governance and functionality of the GAF, its Board and a Committee. First of all, EU **SUGGESTS** Forum to declare a clear distinction of a Committee and Fund's Board by more precise formulation of composition and functions of both entities, because of the inappropriate definition of the relationship between them in draft, which stated, „the fund will be governed and supervised by a Board..” and that, „The fund will be governed and supervised by the Committee”. Therefore the EU seeks for replacement of such confusing statement in the next draft. Secondly, in accordance with previous suggestion, is EU convinced that both of these entities should have their own representatives and they should be independent one from another in order to work efficiently.
- 🌐 **On contrary AGREES** with the status of GAF as a donors fund and the system of distribution of participant's votes. The European Union also **WELCOMES** the suggested steps to avoid domination by a single participant. However, accordingly to the proposed system of contributions and the fact proposed in EUs first standpoint, regarding its suggestion that it will be considered and represented as one single unit consisting of 27 countries, the EU would not contribute to the fund with more than 33% of all fund's donations, despite of the size of its economy.
- 🌐 **HIGHLIGHTS** the role of Green Act Fund as a Fund for helping developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through financing projects, which are fully developed by their governments and experts. Furthermore, the EU **SUGGESTS** creating a group of experts and then



working groups at the national level of each recipient's country, in which both donors and recipients would participate and meet on regular basis, in order to execute the approved project properly.

- ④ UNDERSTANDS the necessity for helping these countries in their battle with climate change and its implications, and is in consent to the proposed amount of 30 billion USD for the period of 2013-2020 as a financial stimulus for developing countries in order to fulfill Forum's goal. The EU itself as a world's leading donor of development aid encourages all the other possible contractors to provide help for these countries in order to increase the suggested amount of financial aid by the Forum.
- ④ Regarding the financing the EU EMPHASIZES the need for system, in which all the financial aid of donors would gather and from which recipients could draw the financial aid but in accordance with the exact given rules. Besides financing options of the GAF mentioned in the draft, The EU supports that following options for financing are implemented:
 - ³⁵₁₇ full exploitation of the potential of new technologies;
 - ³⁵₁₇ reduction of losses caused by climate-change-related events, such as severe drought and flooding and extreme climate events;
 - ³⁵₁₇ development of capacity for disaster prevention and response.
- ④ REAPPROVES the goals of the Forum of 21st century to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared to 1990 level for 2020 and to extend the ratio of the usage of alternative sources of energy over total sources of energy at the 15%. Furthermore, the European Union declares its intention to push these limits even further with regards to its own environmental strategies such as *Strategy on climate change for 2020 and beyond*. Regarding this strategy European Union ENCOURAGES the developed countries to reconsider their possibility to reduce amount of greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% compared to 1990 levels. The EU is convinced that most of the developed countries nowadays have sufficient technologies and financial capacities to reduce their emissions, and therefore they should make most of the effort in the next decade.
- ④ COMMITS itself to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20%, as mentioned in the option A.1 of the proposed draft in compliance with EUs *Energy Strategy 2020*. However, the European Union presents its concern that as a result of inappropriate formulation of options A.2 and A.3, there will be a serious possibility that some of the world's leading emitters won't sign the Green Act. For instance the option A.3 states that „countries which don't commit themselves to reduce emissions will have to contribute 30% more than would have been the contribution based on the size of the economy". The EU is convinced that countries which would not commit themselves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions won't have any intention to sign the Green Act in first place, and even if they will, these contractors won't be in fond of making the largest contributions and paying the largest sanctions. Furthermore, the Forum should take into consideration that many developing countries nowadays don't have a sufficient capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% in the following years without help by the fund therefore the proposed sanctions for these countries are in EUs opinion effusive. The European Union suggests that the Forum for 21st Century will revise its division of contractors and the mechanism of sanctions.
- ④ ACCEPTS the control function of the Committee and its responsibilities as presented in the draft. Furthermore, EU proposes, that following the signing of an international agreement on climate



**GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**
ENVIRONMENTÁLNA
SEKCIA

change, the contractors have to present, in the next three months, a report to the Committee on the following points:

- ³⁵₁₇ the impact on the competitiveness of industry and agriculture, including carbon leakage risks;
- ³⁵₁₇ the impact of the international agreement on other economic sectors;
- ³⁵₁₇ accounting methods for emissions to land use and forestry;
- ³⁵₁₇ modalities relating to afforestation, reforestation, deforestation and forest degradation in third countries.s

in order to evaluate its implications and serve as a potential starting point for possible future revision of the agreement.

