

## **Thirteenth Session of the Ad hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG – KP 13)**

### **STATEMENT BY BELGIUM AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

#### **Closing plenary on 6 August 2010**

Mister Chair, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

At the beginning of this session the European Union stated that we remain fully engaged in the Kyoto track.

Mr. Chair, while reiterating our preference for a single legally binding instrument that would include the essential elements of the Kyoto Protocol, we said that we are flexible regarding the legal form, as long as it is binding. In all the conversations we had with Parties, we further clarified our openness to consider a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, as part of a wider approach in which a binding instrument capturing the outcome of the LCA process would complement and work in parallel with an improved Kyoto Protocol. Such an approach should ensure that other major emitters take on their fair share of the global emission reduction effort and that environmental integrity is improved. We noted with satisfaction that many Parties expressed similar interests.

It remains our objective to make all the progress that is feasible in both negotiating tracks, towards a comprehensive and legally binding outcome, in line with the 2° C objective.

As many other Parties have recognised yet again, current pledges do not match the required level of ambition. There also seems to be broad recognition now, that if we don't get the accounting rules right, this would further undermine the effort that is required. We find it encouraging to see that we are joined by others in insisting on the clear rules-based system that is needed to ensure that the numbers correspond with the required reduction levels.

At this session we made progress on improving the accounting rules. The two workshops gave us a better understanding of the implications of the LULUCF accounting options and of the assumptions underlying current pledges.

The EU believes that good progress on methodology and accounting, but also on improving the existing market mechanisms and developing new ones is key, and can contribute to achieve deeper emission cuts.

For the EU the other key element for achieving deeper emission cuts and which would move us towards the upper ranges of our commitment, is progress within the wider context of both KP and LCA.

It is imperative to develop an equally strong, ambitious, and rules-based mitigation chapter within the convention track of our negotiations. It is equally imperative that developed countries that are not Party to the Kyoto Protocol take up their fair share of binding emission reductions. Developing countries should take actions according to their capabilities.

Mr. Chair, we acknowledge that the Kyoto track has made considerable progress at this session. However, we are also concerned. While within the Kyoto track, we are discussing QELROS, options for accounting, the length of commitment periods, the inclusion of additional gasses, etc., we do not see an equivalent level of progress under the Convention track. We deplore that within that track we were as yet unable even to put our respective mitigation commitments on the negotiation table.

The EU has expressed its openness to consider a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol and we will stand by our support for the two track approach. It should be clear however that this openness is premised on ensuring a satisfactory balance between both tracks and on improving the environmental integrity of the Protocol.

Mr. Chair, we welcome your efforts in producing new text, which we will carefully analyse in preparation of our next session in Tianjin.

Finally, Mr. Chair, I want to assure you that you can count on the EU to continue to engage constructively in the negotiations under the Kyoto track.

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