



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

Opening plenary on 2 August 2010

Mister Chair, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

Let me start by congratulating Ms. Christiana Figuères on her appointment as Executive Secretary. I wish to express the full support to work together with her and her staff towards a successful outcome of our negotiations. Also, I would like to express our gratitude to the entire Secretariat staff for preparing for this session and to the German and Bonn authorities for their warm hospitality.

Getting to the substance at hand, Mr. Chair, let me reiterate the importance the EU attaches to the Kyoto track in the overall negotiations. The EU is committed to make all the progress that is feasible in both negotiating tracks towards a successful, balanced and concrete outcome at Cancún, as a constructive step towards an ambitious and comprehensive agreement in line with the 2°C objective.

The European Union would like to stress that while we still would prefer a single legally binding instrument that would include the essential elements of the Kyoto Protocol, we are flexible regarding the legal form as long as it is binding. We are therefore open to consider a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, as part of a wider, more rigorous and ambitious agreement and provided that certain conditions, founded on the urgent need for environmental integrity and effectiveness of international action, are met. This would mean that Annex I countries that did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol and other major emitters take on their fair share of the global emission reduction effort in the context of an ambitious, legally binding global agreement and that the environmental integrity of the Kyoto Protocol would need to be addressed appropriately, in particular regarding LULUCF accounting and the carry over of Assigned Amount Units and progress is made on the reform of existing mechanisms and on the establishment of new mechanisms.

Let me remind you that the EU already has binding legislation in place to reduce emissions by 2020, which is based on the Kyoto Protocol architecture and provisions.

Mr. Chair, developed countries need to take the lead in reducing emissions and significant domestic mitigation potential is available in all Annex I countries at a reasonable cost. Delaying action will only lead to higher costs later. The EU continues to stand by its own

commitment to a 30% emission reduction as its contribution to a global and comprehensive agreement if other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and if advanced developing countries contribute adequately and according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.

It remains our position that, to keep the 2°C objective within reach, the emission reductions by developed countries in aggregate by 2020 should be in the order of 30% below 1990.

Current pledges do not meet the required level of ambition, and the uncertainties regarding future accounting rules may further undermine the effort that is needed. We need a clear rules based system so as to ensure that the numbers correspond with reduction levels that are clear to us all. We are hopeful that the workshops before and during this session, will contribute to improving our understanding on how to bring the current pledges closer to the efforts needed and how to improve the Protocol's environmental integrity.

The EU is of the view that carefully crafted market mechanisms enhance the cost effectiveness of emissions reductions, thus enabling Annex I Parties to take on more ambitious targets. They can promote technology transfer and generate additional financial flows to developing countries.

We therefore see a continued strong role for the project-based mechanisms, but we need to reform them in order to strengthen their effectiveness, geographical distribution, environmental integrity and governance, for example by establishing of standardised baselines. While reforming existing mechanisms is important, it is also crucial to develop new scaled-up market mechanisms, next to the existing ones, in order to deliver deeper emission reductions.

Mr Chair, as you know the EU sees many synergies between our work and that of the AWG-LCA and we believe that if we could address common elements between both tracks together, using joint formats or back-to-back settings, we could unblock some of the discussions on our agenda.

The EU also wishes to express its appreciation for the long-standing involvement of observer organisations in the UNFCCC process. Observer organisations contribute to the strength of this process by enhancing public awareness and transparency keeping the issue of climate change high on the agenda and by feeding their knowledge for decision-making and implementation into the process.

Mr. Chair, the EU stands ready to work with you and all the Parties to move this process forward and to make this session a significant step towards the ambitious and concrete outcome we need in Cancún.
