

Position Paper

UEAPME's position paper on the key aspects of the International Agreement to be negotiated in the framework of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (7-18 December 2009)

The European Union, which is responsible for about 14% of global CO₂ emissions and has been reducing them since 1990, has established itself as the global front runner in action against climate change. Furthermore the EU27 have committed to reducing their GHG emission by about 20% until 2020 unilaterally. Nevertheless global anthropogenic CO₂ emissions have been growing since 1990 despite efforts to curb emissions in a number of countries which are signatories of the Kyoto Protocol. Therefore, UEAPME is convinced that sustainable CO₂ reduction can only be achieved on global scale. We need an international agreement against climate change with adequate obligations of relevant industrial, emerging and developing countries in order to achieve this goal. The past has proven that unilateral reductions are inadequate and do not account for sustainable climate policies.

The fight against climate change is a global challenge; a future international agreement against climate change, negotiated in Copenhagen in December 2009, therefore has to tackle the following issues:

- A sustainable transition to a low carbon economy has to consider the environmental, social and economic impacts while setting climate and energy targets. As a result it is vital that international negotiations on action against climate change do not focus on the environmental aspects of their targets alone. Sustainable economic growth in all industrial sectors within participating countries of an international agreement against climate change should be aimed at.
- The major emission sources are in industrialized, emerging and developing countries. Other industrialized countries have to commit to reduction targets that are comparable to those within the EU. The targets have to be both ambitious and quantifiable. Emerging countries have to at least enroll in sufficiently quantifiable targets that are legally binding. Developing countries have to commit to a reduction of 15-30% comparing

to the “business-as-usual” emission trends. This reduction has to be legally binding and based on specified “business-as-usual” emission trends.

- Setting climate policy targets must neither weaken the competitiveness of European companies nor the attractiveness of the EU as a production location in comparison with the rest of the world. Industrialized countries have to commit to comparable emission reduction targets as the EU and emerging countries to absolute reduction targets, in order to negotiate a reduction up to 30% within the EU (“level-playing field” must be guaranteed). In this context it is essential to define “comparability”. This would be granted by eliminating the risk of carbon leakage by establishing an international framework where companies, regardless of their home country, operate on a level playing field facing a global CO2 price.
- Project based emission reductions credits should contribute significantly to the fulfillment of the EU emission reduction target. The possibility to use these certificates to meet obligations must not be overly restricted in order to allow for a stable CO2 price and the creation of a global CO2 market.
- To counteract climate change cost-efficiently, a multitude of abatement techniques has to be applied. These measures should include enhanced energy efficiency, an increase in renewable energy sources and Carbon Capture and Storage, among others. However, technology neutrality should be a guiding principle, i.e. one should not concentrate on one mitigation technology only, but create a framework for technology transfer that stimulates the development of different relevant technologies. Nevertheless these measures must not weaken intellectual property rights.

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