

Towards a Global Climate Change Treaty and Decarbonisation

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Budapest, Hungary on 19 to 21 November 2015:

Notes that:

- the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is scheduled to take place in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015;
- the conference is tasked with finding real solutions to the climate challenges that the world faces, threatening the security, the livelihood and the wellbeing of mankind;
- we all share the same planet and atmosphere, and solutions to challenges facing the planet must be agreed upon together; from a grass-roots to global level, in line with the principles of sustainable development and promoting with a holistic view on the link between economic, ecological and social development;
- because the effects of climate change affect all countries but impact the developing or vulnerable countries the most due to limited resources to adapt to the changes, the agreement needs to address both mitigation and adaptation, taking different countries needs and capacities into consideration;
- cities and regions have a key role to play in raising ambition and achieving climate change targets, since to a large extent they are responsible for mobility, transport, territorial planning, construction, energy, environment, water and waste management, agriculture, and industry, areas that directly influence GHG emissions levels and deal with climate change impacts;

Notes with concern that:

- 2014 was the hottest year on record, and that fourteen of the fifteen warmest years on record have occurred in the years since 2000[1]. Without significant action to reduce emissions, global average temperature could be as much as 5°C higher by the end of the century, leading to “severe, widespread and irreversible impacts globally”;
- in line with the IPCC's findings, GHG emissions need to begin a continuous decline, with a global reduction by 40-70 % by 2050 compared to 2010 levels and close to zero by 2100, in order to maintain a likely chance of keeping the rise in global average temperature below 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels;
- the 2°C aim gives humanity an estimated better than 50/50 chance of avoiding the worst effects of global warming; several vulnerable states

Resolution:

Towards a Global Climate Change Treaty and Decarbonisation

Year and Congress:

Budapest, Hungary
2015

Category:

Environment

Page:

1

- including all African states – have demanded that warming is kept to a safer level of 1.5°C;
- the remaining carbon budget needs to be well below 1000 Gt CO₂ in order to have a reasonable chance of keeping the 2°C limit. With the current trend, the budget is estimated to be consumed within the next 25 years;
- the 0.85°C warming which has already taken place is already posing threats to unique ecosystems and species, with irreversible effects on the polar ice sheets, and is increasing the likelihood of extreme weather phenomena as well as food and water scarcity;
- fighting climate change is also an issue of human rights, given that according to the UN, women in the developing world are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change such as droughts, floods, and extreme weather;
- climate refugees will be a common phenomenon in the future;

Stresses that:

- the efforts to mitigate climate change should not be seen as an obstacle to economic growth, but as a driving force of sustainable growth and employment, from which Europe could benefit greatly by being an early mover;
- the EU has decreased its emissions by 19% in 2012 compared to 1990, while at the same time growing its GDP by more than 45%; and that the 20/20/20 targets for GHG emissions, renewable energy and energy savings have played a key role in driving this progress and sustaining the employment of more than 4.2 million people in various eco-industries, with continuous growth during the economic crisis;
- according to the World Bank, fighting climate change would amount to 1.9 trillion euros a year to global GDP growth in the coming decades;
- technology will not automatically advance in a low-carbon direction, and that creating the next wave of resource-efficient, low-carbon technologies will require clear policy signals, including the reduction of market and regulatory barriers to new technologies and business models, and well-targeted public expenditure;
- fossil fuel subsidies, which according to reports reach 4.7 trillion euros globally and 100 billion euros within the EU constitute an obstacle to climate aims. Phasing out such subsidies by 2020 could reduce global GHG emissions by 20%, in the same way, renewable energy subsidies have also to be gradually abandoned;
- the Covenant of Mayors, a movement involving EU local and regional authorities in the fight against climate change, a voluntary commitment to meet and exceed the EU 20% CO₂ reduction objective through increased energy efficiency and development of renewable energy sources, will play an important role in reaching the set targets;

Resolution:

Towards a Global Climate Change Treaty and Decarbonisation

Year and Congress:

Budapest, Hungary
2015

Category:

Environment

Page:

2

Underlines that:

- close to 80% of global emissions are covered by Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). However the ambition level must be increased;
- the preliminary United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) assessment of the submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) so far suggests that the proposed reductions will not be consistent with the 2°C target, and that the INDCs remaining are not likely to close the gap between political intentions and intended contributions;
- forests, arable land, wetlands and oceans are of great importance in climate change mitigation, and stresses the need to enhance the adaptive capacities and resilience of these to climate change, since modern and sustainable agriculture and forestry are an important toolbox for climate-friendly energy production, biodiversity, clean water and less climate gases;
- the EU and its Member States need to honour their commitment to scale up the mobilisation of climate finance, in order to contribute their share to the Copenhagen Accord commitment for the world to mobilise 100 billion dollars per year by 2020;
- as of 2015, sustainable solutions are still within our reach, but require political will and commitments and bold actions by world leaders. Urgent action is deemed to be needed before 2020 from both public and private sources, with further scaled-up finance from 2020 onwards;
- every part of the world needs to lead by example and help in finding ways to tackle climate change as well as making economic growth and opportunity attainable everywhere;

Calls on:

- the European Union to lead the way in finding a fair, ambitious and global legally binding new global climate treaty as an outcome of the Paris Conference, including regular, transparent performance evaluations, designed to ensure that global warming is kept as far as possible under 2°C, enabling a rapid transition to decarbonised, climate-resilient economies and societies;
- the EU and its member states to commit to reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030 and 80-95% by 2050, as well as to mobilise new and additional sources of international climate finance, showing stability and predictability to international partners and investors;
- the proper implementation and funding of the Green Climate Fund and other international mechanisms to support countries to focus on

Resolution:

Towards a Global Climate Change Treaty and Decarbonisation

Year and Congress:

Budapest, Hungary
2015

Category:

Environment

Page:

3

efficient and cost-effective alternatives to either polluting or scarce resources;

- the EU and other donor countries to play their part in fostering further mobilisation of climate finance, including through new sources of private and public funding, for instance through a set aside of the EU ETS allowances;
- the EU to urgently reform the EU ETS to ensure it becomes a real driver for carbon reduction, with a progressively falling overall cap on emissions;
- the EU to agree and implement concrete steps including a timetable for the implementation of the European Council conclusions of May 2013 to phase out environmentally-harmful subsidies which distort competition, the internal energy market and hinder innovation, including subsidies for fossil fuels, to ensure fossil fuel subsidies, including export credit finance for coal-based technologies, are phased out by 2020;
- all national governments and the EU to step up their efforts in R&D, as well as in attracting investments in order to speed up decarbonisation and its competitiveness;
- all parties to pursue additional actions outside the UN climate talks, including at EU level, and international initiatives to reduce hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and other 'short-lived climate forcers';
- the EU and all parties to scale up their work on ending deforestation and promoting sustainable forestry, as well as calling for more innovation and research into the potential of forestry;
- the EU and its Member States to work through the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to develop a global policy framework for international transport emissions from the maritime and aviation sectors, to enable an effective response, and to take measures to set adequate targets before the end of 2016;
- the EU to urgently reform its industrial policy to facilitate and support the transition to a modern, future-oriented innovative and sustainable industrial base;
- the EU and the Member States to scale up research, development and innovation (R&D&I) investments in the field of low carbon technologies.

[1] WMO

Resolution:

Towards a Global
Climate Change
Treaty and
Decarbonisation

Year and Congress:

Budapest, Hungary
2015

Category:

Environment

Page:

4