

COP 21 - a turning-point for the Climate

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Lisbon,

Portugal on 20-22 November 2014:

Notes that

- global greenhouse gas emissions over the period from 2000 to 2010 were the highest in human history and that without significant action to reduce emissions, global average temperature is likely to be as much as 5°C higher by the end of the century;
- 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%;
- according to the World Bank, fighting climate change would add up to €1.9 trillion a year to global GDP growth in the coming decades.
- the report by the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate released in September 2014 shows that a low-carbon path, although requiring marginally more investment upfront, would generate \$5 trillion in savings from lower operating costs for renewable energy sources and increased energy efficiency, making this the far cheaper option in the long run;
- applying climate-related innovations in the energy and industry sectors would be an advantage for Europe as an early mover in the growing global market for energy and energy efficiency related goods and services, creating jobs, stimulating economic growth and increasing energy independence;
- the recent signals from the US and Chinese governments regarding climate action, and their willingness to play a more significant role in global efforts to address climate change;
- fighting climate change is also a rights-issue, 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;
- the fight against climate change will fail without the mobilisation of local and regional governments all over the world to reduce - together with their stakeholders - CO2 emissions, and increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies;
- almost 6,000 municipalities in the EU have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors, voluntarily committing to meet and exceed the European Union's 20% CO2 reduction objective by 2020;

Believes that

- in line with the IPCC's findings, global greenhouse gas emissions need to peak by 2015 at the latest and continue to decline thereafter in order to maintain a likely chance of keeping the rise in global average temperature below 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels;
- the important role of other policy measures, including energy

Resolution:

Agriculture,
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Congress in
Lisbon, Portugal,
November 2014

Category:

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efficiency, substantial energy savings, renewable energy and the phase-down of HFCs contribute to closing the gigatonne gap;

- applying climate related innovations in the energy and industry sectors would be an advantage for Europe as an early mover in the growing global market for energy and energy efficiency related goods and services;
- the climate change challenge provides business opportunities for industry and SMEs and in this respect stresses the importance of clear, long-term climate and energy goals;
- tackling climate change needs to be an inclusive process and that the decision-making as well as new technologies and innovations should open to all and take into account, for example, the historical challenges faced by women in the developing world;

Calls on

- all European countries to urgently contribute to cut emissions and take on a firm commitment to achieve at least a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990, 40% by 2030 and 80-95% by 2050 within an international agreed framework;
- the EU, as a major global player, to speak with "one voice" at the Paris Conference, in seeking progress towards an international agreement;
- the EU and its Member States to honour their commitment to scaling up the mobilisation of climate finance, in order to contribute their share to the Copenhagen Accord commitment for the world to mobilise \$100 billion per year by 2020 and calls on other donor countries to play their part in order to foster further mobilisation of climate finance;
- the EU to act now to maintain its forefront position in the global green race to harvest the potential for growth and competitiveness;
- clear, binding, ambitious climate and energy targets in the EU for the year 2030: for reduction of greenhouse gases, enhancing energy saving, efficiency and renewable energy in a balanced approach;
- the implementation of the European Council conclusions of May 2013 to phase out environmentally and economically harmful subsidies including subsidies for fossil fuels which according to the IEA accounted for \$544 billion worldwide in 2012;
- an international commitment to increase research and development (R&D) investment in sustainable breakthrough technologies in the relevant sectors, notably renewable energy (wind power, solar energy, hydropower), bio-fuels, and hydrogen. We consider it essential that the EU lead by example by directing expenditure devoted to research on the demonstration of innovative climate-friendly and energy-efficient technologies, and that the EU develops close scientific cooperation in this field with international partners, such as the BRIC countries and the USA;
- an international agreement that mobilises leaders of local and regional governments around the world with a call for action and a clear set of measures to be taken;
- the EU and its partners to find, in the immediate future, the most effective way of promoting links between the EU Emissions Trading System and other trading schemes aiming for a global carbon

market.