• EU position for the UN FCCC summit in Copenhagen 2009

UNFCCC summit in Copenhagen 2009

• During this year the European Commission adopted 2 policy papers (Communications) to stimulate international debate on future global climate regime:
  
  - ‘Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen’ (January 2009)
  - ‘Stepping up international climate finance: A European blueprint for the Copenhagen deal’ (10 September 2009).
UNFCCC summit in Copenhagen 2009

- The EU has committed to:
  - Cut its emissions to at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2020 and is already implementing this reduction through a package of legislative measures (Emission trading Directive) and an extensive programme to improve energy efficiency.
  - Scale up emissions reduction to 30% provided that other industrialised countries commit to comparable targets.
  - Contribute its fair share in additional international public finance (The Commission estimates €22-50bn per year in international public finance could be needed by 2020 under an ambitious Copenhagen agreement).

EU proposals for Copenhagen:

- Commit industrialised countries to cutting GHG emissions to 25-40% below 1990 levels by 2020.
- Developing countries should limit rapid growth in their GHG emissions to around 15-30% below business as usual levels in 2020 and put forward national low carbon development strategies.
- Help the most vulnerable developing countries mitigate their emissions and adapt to climate change through financial and technological support.
- An expanded international carbon market to generate financial support for developing countries and promote cost-effective emission cuts;
UNFCCC summit in Copenhagen 2009

• The basis for Copenhagen summit was prepared in Bangkok (5-9th October) and in Barcelona (2-6th November 2009) e.g. consolidation of negotiating texts, clarification on the options.

• Prior to Copenhagen summit, pledges to emission reduction have been made by all major emitters (both developed countries and major emerging countries).

• However, the overall ambition of developed countries still fall well short of what is needed to keep global warming below 2°C.

UNFCCC summit in Copenhagen 2009

• Compromise about overall targets remains to be reached in Copenhagen (global reduction target and individual targets for developed countries both by 2020 and 2050).

• No guarantee that original hopes for Copenhagen will be met. Conclusion of legally binding treaty is put in question.

  • The minimum outcome in Copenhagen should be a policy agreement on the building blocks of the new treaty and a deadline for completing it.