



CEEweb for Biodiversity
Széher út 40. 1021 Budapest, Hungary
Phone: +36 1 398 0135
Fax: +36 1 398 0136
ceeweb@ceeweb.org
www.ceeweb.org

CEEweb recommendations on the follow-up to the Durban Climate Conference of December 2011

prepared prior to the Environment Council meeting on 9 March, 2012

One of the most important results of Durban is the agreement to adopt a legally binding new global climate deal by 2015, involving all major emitters (Durban Platform for Enhanced Action). Besides it was formally decided that a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will run from 1 January 2013, thus avoiding a gap between the end of the first commitment period and the beginning of the new global deal.

CEEweb calls on Environment Ministers to adopt conclusions to:

- bring up the idea of 80% emissions cut targeted globally by 2050 in the upcoming Durban Platform for Enhanced Action negotiations, coupled with the introduction of an input-side regulation, namely, the limit and gradual decrease of total demand for energy, natural resources and space used by industrialized countries
- quantify EU domestic target for the second Kyoto period as well as for the EU Climate and Energy package of at least 30% emissions reduction, as well as define rules governing the carryover of tradable carbon credit units (AAUs) in the second commitment period
- support the adoption of EU-wide rules for counting LULUCF towards the EU's reduction commitment, as well as to adopt forestry and agriculture-specific targets at EU level
- ensure the strictest conditions for sustainability in CCS project approvals, as well as ensure that CDM will not result in decreasing domestic measures in industrialized countries

Annex

- 1. Durban Platform for Enhanced Action:** one of the most important results of Durban is the agreement to adopt a legally binding new global climate deal by 2015, involving all major emitters. CEEweb welcomes the EU's leading role in the negotiations so far and calls upon the Council to ensure its leading role in the future negotiations too.

CEEweb calls upon the Environment Ministers to adopt conclusions regarding the EU's proposals in the upcoming Durban Platform for Enhanced Action negotiations. These proposals should bring up the idea of 80% emissions cut targeted globally by 2050, coupled with the introduction of an input-side regulation, namely, the limit and gradual decrease of total demand for energy, natural resources and space used by industrialized countries.

In order to maximize global warming at 2 degrees Celsius and to adopt reduction targets recommended by IPCC, 80% emissions cut should be targeted by 2050 globally, which practically means that our fossil fuel use should fall near zero. The Fast-growing economies also need to commit themselves to deep cuts in their emissions.

GHG emissions, excessive use of natural resources and degradation of natural ecosystems are equivalently important causes of climate change. Therefore, to avoid climate change turning to uncontrollable and catastrophic, we should target all three. This means that (1) decreasing our use of natural resources as well as (2) giving more space for nature and its processes (by protecting remaining natural surface cover and restoring a significant part of degraded ecosystems) should get the same priority in climate change mitigation as (3) cutting our emissions of greenhouse gases. If we focus only on emission cuts, the savings due to enhanced efficiency and renewable share can easily be overgrown by the fast increase of needs, and on the other hand, some of the solutions (such as agrofuels) seriously endanger biodiversity and eventually result in even higher emissions.

Consequently, industrialized countries need to limit and gradually decrease their total demand for energy, natural resources and space, until we reach the carrying capacity of the Earth. Ecological Footprint should be used here as an indicator.

- 2.** In Durban it was formally decided that a **second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol** will run from 1 January 2013, thus avoiding a gap between the end of the first commitment period and the beginning of the new global deal.

CEEweb calls upon the Environment Ministers to quantify EU domestic target for the second Kyoto period as well as for the EU Climate and Energy package of at least 30% emissions reduction, as well as define rules governing the carryover of tradable carbon credit units (AAUs) in the second commitment period.

Besides, CEEweb calls upon the Council to support the adoption of EU-wide rules for counting LULUCF towards the EU's reduction commitment, as well as to adopt forestry and agriculture-specific targets at EU level.

The 2020 pledges currently on the table are far from to fulfill the need to maximize global warming at 2 degrees Celsius and to adopt reduction targets recommended by IPCC. Even if fully realized, they will not stop the global average temperatures from rising at least between 3 and 4 degrees. The consequences of such warming would be catastrophic for millions of people as well as for a huge range of natural ecosystems. Therefore, bearing in mind that the world is rapidly facing a resource constrained and volatile future, we believe that the EU should set a target of at least 30% emissions reduction for the second Kyoto period, as well as consider the possibility to adopt a target of 40% reductions below 1990 levels by 2020, achieved by entirely domestic efforts (excl. CDM).

We urge the inclusion of Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sectors in carbon accounting compulsory for EU Member States, in order to avoid release of the carbon stored in forests and soils as well as to support their natural carbon sink potential. At the same time we emphasize the necessity of the ecosystem-approach towards the role of agriculture and forestry in mitigation. We need to find convergence of interests between soil conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, water management, food production, disaster mitigation and biodiversity conservation. Natural solutions supporting ecosystem services have been proven to bring multiple benefits and be extremely cost-effective at the same time.

3. According to decisions of the UNFCCC CMP7 in Durban, **carbon capture and storage technology (CCS) will be included in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)**, following the preliminary decision at COP16/CMP6 in Cancun.

While having concerns about the very idea of CCS, CEEweb calls upon Environment Ministers to ensure the strictest conditions for sustainability in CCS project approvals. Furthermore, CEEweb calls on the Council to ensure that CDM will not result in decreasing domestic measures in industrialized countries.

CDM can be a useful tool to support sustainable development in poor countries; however sustainability should be a keyword in project approval, and it should not result in decreasing domestic measures in industrialized countries. However we are very concerned about including carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies in CDM. CCS is an end-of-pipe solution requiring a lot of investment in terms of fossil energy, and there are serious concerns about their feasibility, costs, safety, and liability. They conserve the current structure of energy sector being based mostly on fossil fuels. Instead of such end-of-pipe solutions, real solutions should target the drivers of climate change, namely the excessive use of energy, natural resources and space.