



Brussels October 4, 2011

Dear Environment Minister,

At the upcoming Environment Council, you will discuss the EU's next steps towards the Durban climate conference. The Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe - representing 149 organisations and over 5 million citizens throughout Europe - urges the EU to take a strong position on three topics of the Durban agenda to help lay the groundwork for a fair, ambitious and legally binding global climate change regime.

Save the Kyoto Protocol to ensure continued binding global action on climate

CAN-Europe believes that it is in the EU's own interest to work jointly and coherently to secure a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, and thus preserve the only legally binding instrument with emission reduction targets and timetables. We also want to remind that the environmental integrity of the rules that govern the land-use and forestry accounting, carbon offsetting and surplus AAUs will eventually remain the responsibility of those countries participating in the Protocol's next phase.

To complement an agreement to a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, governments must also agree in Durban a negotiating mandate with a timetable for a global legally binding instrument that is consistent with latest science, taking into account the equity principles of the UNFCCC and the historical responsibility of developed countries. This must be done in order to put us on a credible pathway towards global emissions reductions of at least 80% in 2050.

Close the gigatonne gap

Despite agreement in Cancun that all developed countries should increase ambition to reduce emissions, the EU's ambition has not changed since then. The economic recession has greatly reduced the costs of achieving a 30% or a higher target. By independently raising its reduction target to the level necessary - at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 - the EU would set itself on an ultimately inescapable path, meanwhile catalysing the early mover advantage, job creation and health benefits.

We urge the EU to work with other countries to come to a common understanding of the size of the gigatonne gap and agree on ways of bridging it, such as by taking more ambitious mitigation commitments, ensuring the environmental effectiveness of the targets and addressing emissions from international aviation and maritime transport.

Scale up climate funding from 2013 to 2020

Progress on closing the finance gap in Durban is essential to breaking the deadlock on a range of issues. The EU should seek agreement on a roadmap to scale up climate finance contributions from \$10 billion in 2012 to \$100 billion in 2020 as agreed in Copenhagen; and make an offer for new and additional public finance to be provided by Europe from 2013-2015. Budgetary contributions alone will not be sufficient, and decisions are needed to mobilise the most promising supplementary sources of public climate finance. The EU should lead on an agreement to apply a fair global carbon price for international shipping with revenues directed both to the Green Climate Fund and avoiding negative impacts on developing countries. Further proposals such as a Financial Transaction Tax are on the table also and we urge ministers to ensure that such measures will provide significant finance for climate change and to fight poverty at home and abroad.

CAN-Europe is convinced that the European Union plays a central role in shaping the direction of the global climate change regime, especially if it is able to lead from the front and set the agenda - by unilaterally adopting clear, ambitious positions, well in time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wendel Trio', written over a horizontal line.

Wendel Trio
Director, Climate Action Network Europe