



BRIEFING  
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# EU and COP21: priorities & recommendations

## *Why is UNFCCC COP21 so significant?*

*Climate change is speeding up and getting worse – action is required. The European Union (EU) has long been a leader on climate action within the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).*

*The UN Climate Summit in Paris (COP 21) is an opportunity for the EU to pursue its leadership role. It represents the most important global moment for progressive climate action since COP15 in Copenhagen (2009). Citizens and communities around the world are already spearheading the shift to clean energy solutions and support moving out of coal and other fossil fuels.*

*The Paris climate talks create the momentum for governments to agree on how to speed up the global zero-carbon transition, redirecting economic development towards decarbonisation and climate resilience and ending the age of fossil fuels.*

WWF calls on the EU to seize this crucial time to reinvigorate its role and use all its influence to increase climate ambition. The Paris Agreement must provide a clear, unequivocal signal that world leaders are committed to a just transition to a zero carbon future, based on renewable energy and energy savings. While Paris will not be the end of the climate struggle, it can signal the turning of the tide with the right political will.

### WWF asks all nations at COP21 to:

- **Agree a long-term decarbonisation goal in line with keeping global warming below 1.5° C temperature increase**, with mid-term targets in 2025 and 2030;
- **Address the gap between national emissions reductions commitments and the collective effort needed** to avoid dangerous climate change;
- **Establish mechanisms to ensure a regular review of ambition and equity** on climate change actions;
- **Secure urgent and adequate resourcing for climate** actions including technological, financial, and legal implementation assistance;
- **Secure both pre- and post- 2020 climate finance** by using a range of instruments and commitments to shift investments towards climate resilience/adaptation, low emissions renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency;
- **Set a global goal for Adaptation**, including by making Loss and Damage a central part of the overall agreement.

For a detailed overview of WWF policy asks ahead of COP 21 please see the document: “WWF Policy asks for Paris” at

[http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/footprint/climate\\_carbon\\_energy/cop\\_21](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/climate_carbon_energy/cop_21)

## EU'S LEADERSHIP AND PRIORITIES

European Environment Ministers adopted the EU's position for COP 21 on 18 September. While EU Ministers gave a positive signal to the international community about the need to deal with the global climate crisis, the EU's position is still lacking clarity on how the EU-28 intends to contribute to it in practice. Further clarification is needed on:

- the way the EU intends to deliver more than its own proposed greenhouse gas emission reduction targets by 2020 and 2030,
- how the EU will provide its fair share of international climate finance, including a clear roadmap to scale up vital means of support for vulnerable people and ecosystems up to 2020 and beyond.

These issues remain open questions for the rest of the world and need to be clarified by EU policymakers prior to the UNFCCC COP21 negotiations in Paris.

### Strategic priorities for EU leadership at UNFCCC COP21

- Create an international framework that stimulates much greater action and re-establish partnerships with developing countries allies to encourage other developed nations increase their climate ambition
- Take stronger domestic action to effectively contribute to closing the pre- and post-2020 emissions gap
- Ensure that the Paris Agreement includes a robust accounting framework to enhance transparency and accountability
- Provide a fair share of international climate finance

## Rebuild international partnerships to increase influence and climate ambition

WWF calls on EU Member States to show the political leadership needed to inspire and shape an agreement in Paris, setting a robust framework that incentivises much greater action of other developed nations, and ensures that the pre- and post-2020 emissions gap will be closed.

Securing a successful outcome in Paris also requires the EU to rebuild partnerships with climate action allies, such as Least Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and work to ensure that all vulnerable nations have access to means of implementation including climate finance, capacity building, and technology in order to help achievement of their mitigation and adaptation actions.

## Take stronger domestic action to contribute effectively to closing the pre-and post 2020 emissions gap

The Paris agreement and the goals set in COP 21 and within intended National Determined Contributions (INDCs) will not come into effect or begin implementation until 2020. A significant ambition gap exists between current climate action efforts taken now, and 2020 when the agreement would come into effect. As such it was decided at COP17 in Durban that a workplan should be developed to outline options to close the ambition gap.

It is imperative that all countries must start implementing effective climate action now in the pre-2020 period to keep global temperature rises below 1.5°C, as well as take action in the post-2020 period. Moreover all actions must follow a science based trajectory, to ensure that action has a realistic chance of affecting the current global warming trajectory.

**A POSITIVE 2015  
GLOBAL AGREEMENT IN  
PARIS COULD ENABLE  
THE EU TO INCREASE ITS  
REDUCTION TARGETS  
FOR 2030 BEYOND THE  
CURRENT 3AT LEAST  
40% GOAL.**

The EU's 2030 climate and energy framework, which was agreed by the European Council in October 2014 forms the basis of the EU's INDC.

The European Council endorsed a binding and domestic EU greenhouse gas **emission reduction target of at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990**. This baseline target must still be implemented by agreeing further climate and energy legislation that facilitates the EU to exceed 40% GHG emissions reduction by 2030 and sends a clear pro-active message to the international community.

To this end, WWF calls on the EU as a whole and individual Member States (MS) to commit to clear plans to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions before and after 2020. This should include in particular:

- **Reforming the European Emission Trading System to increase its environmental effectiveness, including by recognise extra-EU climate policies** when assessing carbon leakage risk and earmarking auctioning revenues to deliver international climate finance.
- **Reviewing the Effort Sharing Decision (ESD)** to include agreement by Member States on national emissions reduction targets without loopholes.
- **Renewable energy and Energy efficiency should become the core of Europe's energy system transformation.** The reviews of the Energy Efficiency Directive and of the Renewables Energy Directive expected in 2016 and a governance system which gives all stakeholders an active role in the energy system are crucial for a successful and publicly supported energy transition that provides a leading example to other nations.
- **The EU should curtail the use of dirty energy sources and technologies and highlight the unacceptable economic, social, and environmental impacts of coal use in Europe.** One of the key policy challenges is to ensure the introduction of stricter pollution controls and the establishment of a CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Performance Standard (EPS) for the power sector.
- **Align European climate and energy policies with a five-yearly mitigation ambition and ratcheting up mechanism** in order to increase the pace of emission reductions over time.

The subsequent implementation of robust and timely policies and measures by European Member States and other developed countries will help to close the pre-2020 gap on action to reduce emissions.

In Paris a decision on pre-2020 action must be included within the agreement to facilitate closing the emissions gap, including by scaling up renewable energy, energy efficiency, and action in cities and the land-sector, in both the immediate and long term.

## Advocate for robust accounting rules to enhance transparency and comparability

Building on 18 September Environment Council Conclusion calling for a “robust common rules-based regime” with “transparency and accountability rules” that

“should provide for the use of common metrics”, WWF calls on the EU to secure this position with partners and ensure that the Paris Agreement includes a robust accounting and transparency framework, along with clear principles of transparency, accuracy, consistency, completeness and comparability, in order to ensure confidence in the global UNFCCC system beyond Paris.

This is essential since transparency facilitates understanding of Party commitments, helps to build trust in the international climate change framework, ensures that governments can be held accountable for their actions and facilitates understanding of whether sufficient action is being taken to keep warming below 1.5° or 2° Celsius. Transparency on the impacts of policies and measures will also facilitate learning with regard to successful policies and types of support needed. Therefore strong and clear rules for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) must underpin the international climate regime.

The Paris Agreement should set the parameters for transparency in the post-2020 framework by building on the existing MRV framework, extending the scope beyond mitigation, allowing flexibility for countries with little responsibility or capability (LDC and SIDS), providing methodology guidelines and creating opportunities to review the efficacy of the MRV system in future.

## Provide fair share of international climate finance

Support must be provided to vulnerable countries and communities, who will continue to bear the impacts of climate change and who are often the least responsible. Climate finance must reflect the 1.5°C / 2°C target, in that it should be used for zero-carbon projects that aim to cut emissions and keep temperature rises below 1.5°C. It is imperative that climate finance is enshrined within the Paris agreement, along with strict governing criteria to ensure accountability, transparency, and to avoid double-counting. Securing both pre- and post- 2020 climate finance by using a range of instruments and commitments to shift investments towards climate resilience/adaptation, low emissions renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency is essential.

### **WWF believes that the following objectives should guide the EU's Climate Finance position in Paris:**

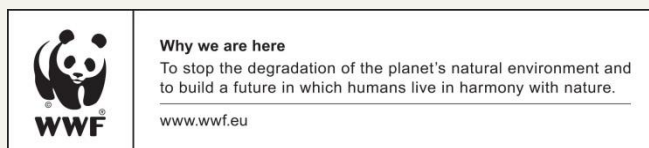
- Present a roadmap for delivering pre-2020 finance, including innovative sources of finance;
- Ensure strict monitoring, reporting and verification criteria
- Prevent the diversion of aid provision to meet climate finance obligations;
- Define strict sustainability criteria and standards on private, bilateral, and multilateral finance streams;
- Support a ratchet-up mechanism to scale-up post-2020 public finance.



See WWF briefing on EU Climate Finance for more details:  
[http://www.wwf.eu/media\\_centre/publications/?254677/WWF-briefing-EU-climate-finance-and-COP-Paris](http://www.wwf.eu/media_centre/publications/?254677/WWF-briefing-EU-climate-finance-and-COP-Paris) .



A farm house on the edge of Ilkley moor that has solar panels in the field behind the farmhouse to help power the house. West Yorkshire, UK. © Global Warming Images / WWF



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