



Subject: Swedish Presidency of the EU: leadership on the road to Copenhagen

Brussels, 24.06.2009

Dear Prime Minister Reinfeldt,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the undersigned organisations, united in their effort to stop dangerous climate change, to stress the importance of the forthcoming Swedish Presidency of the EU.

The key test for the Swedish Presidency will be to guide the EU's drive for an ambitious and equitable global agreement at the Copenhagen climate summit in December that must be consistent with keeping average global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius and that respects the right to development of poorer countries.

At present, the world risks sleepwalking into failure at Copenhagen, and thereby bring about climate catastrophe for this and future generations. Discussions under the UNFCCC are trapped in inertia, stalled by the failure of developed countries to keep their commitments both on mitigation targets and on climate financing for developing countries. In the EU, no substantive progress in the position for Copenhagen has been made since the Spring European Council.

Over the next six months under the Swedish Presidency, the EU has an historic opportunity to break this impasse. But doing so demands new energy and a clear strategic vision. A in this regard successful presidency is only achieved through bold leadership, not neutral facilitation.

The Swedish Presidency must urgently provide an EU roadmap for success in Copenhagen and for the future direction of EU climate policy, defining key milestones for EU climate leadership along the way. Decisions on key issues like the EU's public climate financing offer cannot be further delayed. We are concerned that in the past months Sweden has not signalled a clear willingness to lead in this area. We stress that it is the responsibility of your Presidency to ensure that decisions on the EU position on public finance are now taken well in advance of Copenhagen.

The Presidency's roadmap should frame European climate leadership on the road to Copenhagen as an unprecedented opportunity for the EU's future economic competitiveness, innovation and job creation. Sweden's efforts to decouple carbon emissions from economic growth should guide and inspire more ambitious future EU action.

In this light, the EU can feel confident about embarking on a strategy of leading from the front in the international negotiations, setting an example that other parties will wish to follow. Doing so will build much needed trust with developing countries and encourage the collective raising of ambition from developed countries. Waiting for other parties in the negotiations to move first has only proved to be a strategy for stalemate.

The responsibility and expectations of this EU Presidency are possibly greater than ever before. From 1st July there are only 171 days left to striking a global deal in Copenhagen, and none to

waste. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the current drift in the development of the EU's position is halted, and that the milestones of EU leadership towards an ambitious, safe and fair deal in Copenhagen are now urgently met.

We include recommendations for initial building blocks of a Presidency roadmap to Copenhagen that would achieve this goal. We are looking forward to a successful Swedish EU Presidency.

Yours sincerely,



Matthias Duwe
Director, Climate Action Network Europe

For and on behalf of:

ActionAid Aprovev Asfaltblomman Climate Action Network Europe CEE Bankwatch
Christian Aid Concerned Citizens against Climate Change Focus Friends of the Earth Europe
Germanwatch Greenpeace Grian Oxfam Practical Action Svenska Ekodemiker
Svenska Kyrkans Unga Swedish Society for Nature Conservation TckTckTck.org Tearfund
Women in Europe for a Common Future WWF

Recommendations for an EU Roadmap to Copenhagen

The world awaits EU leadership at the UNFCCC meetings leading up to Copenhagen in Bonn, Bangkok and Barcelona, but also at the G8/MEF meetings in July, and at the G20 and UN climate summit in September. The Swedish Presidency must integrate climate change considerations into all EU foreign relations work, all energy considerations, research and development work and cooperation with European and international partners.

The EU's ability to shape and influence the agenda and outcome of all these meetings and opportunities, and ultimately the Copenhagen outcome, will depend on extra time scheduled for EU Heads of State and Government to agree and endorse well in advance ambitious EU positions on mitigation, adaptation, climate finance and technology co-operation.

European NGOs have the following recommendations to advance the EU position in this regard:

Make more time for EU Heads of State and Government to talk climate

- Recognising that the next European Council is not until 29-30th October, convene in early September an extraordinary European Council or an extraordinary Council of finance and environment ministers to prepare an EU offer to break the international deadlock at the UN high level climate summit on 22nd September.

On Adaptation and Capacity-building: An early finance offer can break the impasse and build trust

- Build on the final report of the Swedish Commission on Climate Change and Development (CCD) and forthcoming Presidency-European Commission paper on adaptation, to inform a pre-Copenhagen EU offer on adaptation financing for developing countries to be adopted at an extraordinary European Council or an extraordinary Council of finance and environment ministers in early September and presented at the UN climate summit on 22nd September;
- Building on some of the key CCD recommendations, the offer should include:
 - Assurances that all adaptation financing should be new and additional to existing ODA commitments;
 - The immediate unconditional financing of the EU's fair share of the urgent adaptation needs of the least developed countries, fulfilling an eight year promise amounting to \$2bn;
 - A pre-Copenhagen offer of the EU's fair share of the minimum €40bn needed annually from today, conditional on a Copenhagen agreement;
- Build on the June European Council conclusions, and prepare an upfront finance and capacity building offer to be committed and transferred to developing countries for the preparation of low carbon development strategies (LCDs), to be adopted at an extraordinary European Council or an extraordinary Council of finance and environment ministers in early September and made at the UN climate summit in September.

On Mitigation: Equitable effort sharing and the right finance offer will unlock talks on limiting emissions growth in developing countries

- Use the Competitiveness Council on 23rd-25th September, informal Competitiveness Council on 14th-16th October and sustainable competitiveness conference on 2nd-3rd November to make the economic case in terms of first-mover advantage for a higher EU target of at least -40% below 1990 levels by 2020;
- Task finance ministers with the explicit goal of agreeing by the ECOFIN Councils on 1st-2nd and 20th October the total scale of public funding, additional to money for offsetting, required from developed countries for mitigation in developing countries of which the EU has committed to pay its fair share. This should build on the €100bn per year figure proposed by the EPC-EFC climate finance expert working group, clarifying that at least €71bn must be public funding, and be endorsed by the European Council on 29th-30th October.

On Finance Raising Mechanisms and Governance of Climate Funds: Proposals from the EU can steer the debate

- Set the new mandate of the EPC-EFC climate finance expert working group to report explicitly by the ECOFIN Councils on 1st-2nd and 20th October and Environment Council on 23rd October, on the finance-raising mechanisms that can ensure that these adequate sums are raised in a manner that is predictable and sustainable, in line with the commitment under the Bali Action Plan, to be endorsed by the European Council on 29th-30th October;
- Task environment ministers at the informal Environment and Energy Council on 24th-25th July to report by the Environment Council on 23rd October on suggestions for the structure of governance of new and additional climate funds, which must be transparent, with fair representation for developing countries and under the authority of the UNFCCC, to be endorsed by the European Council on 29th-30th October.

On Technology: Early actions can build trust and enable clean, climate-resilient development

- At Bonn III in August, acknowledge and build on the concrete technology proposals made by G77/China and other parties, recognizing that early EU action on technology can be made separate from negotiations on finance since parts of the technology debate are policy-related rather than finance-related;
- Task environment ministers at the informal Environment and Energy Council on 24th-25th July to mandate EGTECH to elaborate the EU policy for technology co-operation, recognising the different needs of both mitigation and adaptation technology, addressing the institutions, barriers and financing for research, development and diffusion of needed technologies; to form the basis of Environment Council conclusions on 23rd October;
- Task environment and trade ministers at the Environment and GAERC Councils in October to mandate the EU to take the initiative for an International Declaration on Climate Technologies and IPRs at Copenhagen, acknowledging that IPRs may be a barrier for some technologies and that existing flexibilities available under the TRIPS agreement should be applied to facilitate climate change related technology cooperation.



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