Statement by European Commissioner for Climate Action

Connie Hedegaard

at the opening of the High-level Segment of COP-16/CMP-6

Tuesday 7 December 2010

Madam President,

Although the European Union was ready to commit to an international, legally binding agreement already in Copenhagen – and of course still is – we know that here in Cancun we cannot get *everything* done.

But it is absolutely imperative that we deliver something, something substantial. Something leading to immediate action. Something that paves the way towards the international agreement that the world needs to tackle climate change effectively. To come out of Cancun with nothing is simply not an option.

Over the last years we have managed to mobilize the whole world and get people from around the planet to acknowledge the urgency of this challenge. Seeing the pictures of palm trees and beautiful beaches, how would they judge us – the governments of the world – if we left Cancun empty-handed?

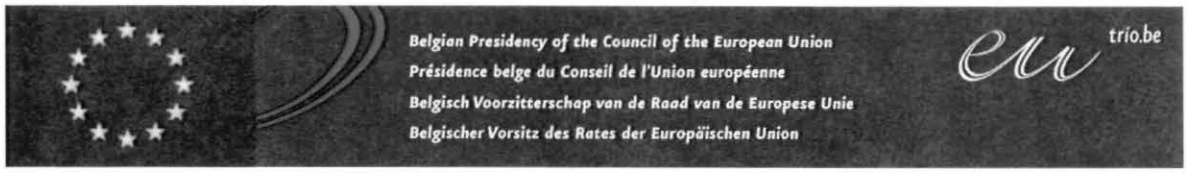
We owe it to them to deliver. Just as we owe it to the people suffering the consequences of climate disruption.

The flooded families in Pakistan. The farmers in Mali coping with desertification and drought. The Arab villagers suffering from water shortages.

We owe it to them – and to all other citizens of this world to whom climate change is already now a fact of life – to end this week with a set of decisions. A set of decisions that puts the world on track towards a sustainable future with cleaner and greener growth…

It is easy to see how complicated, difficult, and slow the UN process is. But it is much harder to see an alternative that can deliver more results faster. So for the credibility of the negotiations it is crucial to prove that this political process leads to political progress.

Madam President, let me assure you that the EU is committed to doing all it can, under your guidance, to ensure that Cancun produces the successful outcome the world so badly needs. We still have 72 hours to do it. Thank you!



Statement Mrs. Joke Schauvliege

Chair of the European Council for Environment

Flemish Minister for Environment, Nature and Culture

Opening High Level Segment COP-16/CMP-6, Cancún, 7 December 2010

President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will speak on behalf of the EU and its 27 member states.

You heard from the Commissioner that we came to Cancun to agree on a balanced and comprehensive package.

I will address some crucial issues and our position on it.

1. The EU is willing to consider a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol as a part of a wider outcome including the perspective of the global and comprehensive framework engaging all major economies. It must be an effective further step towards combating climate change. That's why we ask to strengthen the Protocol and back it up with an equally robust outcome under the Convention track.
2. On mitigation there is an overall support for the need to capture the proposals for mitigation commitments in the UNFCCC process. The efforts have to assure that the two degrees Celsius objective is matched. Several Parties have also made constructive proposals to lay the foundation for a robust framework for enhanced MRV that respects common but differentiated responsibilities and we agree on that.
3. The EU and its 27 member states want a balanced package with essential elements such as adaptation, technology, finance, REDD+ and capacity building. Adaptation is a vital concern and that is why this year alone in 2010 the EU and its 27 member states have pledged 2.35 billion euro of fast start funding of which 844 million euro for adaptation. And we agree on a new fund.

Madam President,

Mexico has spared no efforts to rebuild trust in the UNFCCC process by ensuring full transparency and inclusiveness. We applaud your efforts and achievements. You can count on our full support.