

**Climate policy convention in Israel 2015 - Israel is preparing for
Paris COP21**

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The Delegation of the EU to Israel

- Ladies and Gentlemen (add names), it is my pleasure to address you at the second conference on Israel's Climate Change policy and to express my appreciation to the Porter School for Environmental Studies and the Association for Environmental Justice for their initiative.
- The timing is excellent. On 17 June – 100 days to Paris - the EU and its Member States around the globe will be celebrating EU Climate Diplomacy Day whose goal is to promote a common worldwide understanding of the need the need for ongoing climate action.
- I think that you will agree that that climate change action and foreign policy must work hand in hand:
 - Climate change is one of the major challenges of the 21st century, presenting risks to international prosperity and security. Securing international action in response is a key foreign policy challenge.
 - Climate change impacts are already being felt around the world, affecting human lives and economies. Without sustained mitigation action and effective adaptation, these impacts are likely to have considerable consequences for our way of life.
 - The economic and business opportunities of a transition to a low carbon future are also significant: the sooner we act, the greater the benefit. Timely investment in low

carbon, climate resilient development can generate jobs and growth, and reduce the long term costs of lowering emissions and adapting to climate change impacts.

What is the EU doing about it?

- Most recently, we put our emissions reduction contribution (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution - INDC) to the 2015 Agreement forward on 6 March 2015. The EU was the first G20 country to do so.
- The EU's INDC reflects the decision taken by the Council of Ministers in October 2014 to achieve at least 40% domestic greenhouse gas emission reductions on 1990 levels by 2030.
- But Europe accounts only for around 9% of global emissions and its share is falling: action across the globe is therefore essential.
- On 25 February 2015, the European Commission published its climate change communication. Entitled "The Paris Protocol - a blueprint for tackling global climate change beyond 2020", the communication sets out the EU's vision for a transparent and dynamic, legally binding United Nations climate change agreement that sets the world on a pathway to prevent global warming from reaching dangerous levels.
- The Communication foresees an agreement containing fair and ambitious commitments from all Parties, based on evolving geopolitical circumstances.
- Collectively, these commitments should – in line with science – put the world on track to reduce global emissions by at least 60% below 2010 levels in 2050.
- The Communication proposes that the 2015 agreement should preferably take the form of a Protocol under the UNFCCC and enter into force as soon as it is ratified by countries totalling 40 Gt CO₂ equivalents. This is equivalent to approximately 80% of 2010 global emissions. The EU, China and the US should show political leadership by joining the Protocol as early as possible.

- Under the new Protocol, in addition to emissions reduction commitments, all countries should be encouraged to participate in climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building.
- The Communication highlights how other EU policies, such as trade, scientific research, technology development and innovation, as well as economic and development cooperation can support and strengthen the EU's international climate policy.
- Contributions need to be as ambitious as possible given parties' responsibilities and capabilities. Efforts and ambition by the G20 countries that account for 75% of global emissions will be decisive.
- All countries are expected to come forward with their contributions well in advance of the Paris conference to enable us to design and agree a robust and dynamic deal capable of keeping the global temperature rise below 2°C.
- We consider Israel to be a likeminded country and as such expect you to play your part. I take this opportunity to urge Israel to present its INDC as soon as possible
- We all recall then President Shimon Peres's declaration at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December 2009:

By 2020, the government of Israel intends to make best efforts to reduce its CO2 emissions by 20% compared to a business as usual scenario.
- I would also like to take this opportunity to briefly mention an example of our cooperation with Israel
- The Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection, Building and Nuclear Safety have just completed an EU funded Twinning Project whose purpose was to assist Israel in moving toward a progressive environmental regulation of industry - through the

creation of an Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control system and improvement of a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register.

- This project is being followed up with a new Twinning Project – this time with Germany, Austria and the UK to Strengthen the Environmental Framework for SME, Resource Efficiency, Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
- The EU is fully committed to doing its part and counts on the continued cooperation and collaboration of its international partners to reach a successful conclusion in Paris.
- We believe that the prospects for reaching a global agreement are good. One challenge is ensuring that the new Protocol is fit for purpose for many years to come.
- The IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report, tells us that the below 2°C target is still within reach – while underlining the urgency for ambitious global collective action now.
- As you probably know, experts from the 196 parties are concluding their meeting in Bonn which we hope will have made progress in streamlining the rather heavy negotiating text reached in Geneva in February UPDATE WITH DEVELOPMENTS AT END OF WEEK
- This is an historic opportunity we cannot afford to miss.