



Submission by Poland and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

This submission is supported by Albania, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Warsaw, 20th September 2011

Subject: Response measures

Subject: Further views on the issues related to the development of a work programme under the subsidiary bodies to address the impact of the implementation of response measures, pursuant to paragraph 93 of decision 1/CP.16

Introduction

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Technological Advice (SBSTA) at their thirty-fourth sessions invited Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2011, further views related to the development of a work programme under the Subsidiary Bodies to address the impact of the implementation of response measures, pursuant to paragraph 93 of decision 1/CP.16 (joint conclusions FCCC/SBI/2011/L.18 and FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.16).
2. The EU recalls and reiterates the views expressed in its previous submission on this topic dated 16 March 2011 and welcomes this opportunity to present additional views.

Some remarks on the current state of negotiations on the issue of response measures

3. The EU notes that negotiations on the issue of response measures are currently fragmented and spread across a whole range of groups and bodies. During the last year alone, discussions on the issue of response measures/potential consequences took place under the SBI (1/CP.10), under the SBI and the SBSTA (joint contact group on Articles 2.3 and 3.14 of the Kyoto-Protocol), under the AWG-LCA (economic and social consequences of response measures) and under the AWG-KP (potential consequences).
4. A forum comprising a special event on response measures was held at the thirty-fourth sessions of the SBI and the SBSTA. A further session of the forum is scheduled for the thirty-fifth sessions of these bodies. Two workshops, one on Articles 2(3) and 3(14) of the Kyoto Protocol and one on the response measures element of 1/CP.10 are to take place from 19 to 21 September 2011 in Bonn.
5. In addition to this work, the EU and other Annex I Parties have reported on the impact of the implementation of response measures in their National Inventory Reports and/or their fifth National Communications.

6. At the same time, issues relating to response measures have been repeatedly raised in other fora, notably under Shared Vision.
7. Clearly, this represents a significant use of rather limited resources. This, it is submitted, warrants further reflection before engaging in discussions on a work programme and a possible forum on response measures.

On modalities for the operationalisation of a work programme on response measures

8. The EU is of the view that a work programme on response measures pursuant to paragraph 93 of decision 1/CP.16 should build upon, and succeed the previous work programme on response measures under 1/CP.10.
9. It should focus on a better understanding of the positive and negative impacts of the implementation of response measures, as mandated by paragraph 92 of Decision 1/CP.16.
10. This means that information sharing and reporting should be the two central elements of a work programme. Particular emphasis should be placed on the positive impacts of implementing response measures in the areas of health, education, green jobs and green growth. Concerning developing countries, the focus should be on the poorest and most vulnerable.
11. In addition, the work programme could foresee a workshop on the positive impacts of response measures on health, education, green jobs and green growth. This could take place in a setting as outlined in paragraph 15, below.
12. The work programme would be reviewed after two years.

On a possible forum on response measures

13. Given the current fragmentation of negotiations on the issue of response measures, the EU is of the view that a possible forum on response measures would not add any extra value if it were merely added to ongoing discussions.
14. A possible forum on response measures would only offer an added value if it were to bring together all current strands of negotiations in one central place, replacing all existing processes (as mentioned in paragraph 3, above) with a single new process.
15. Such a new process would meet in-session during the annual June sessions of the SBI and the SBSTA and could hold special events on issues identified in a work programme (see paragraphs 9 to 12, above).

Conclusion

16. The EU looks forward to participating in the second and final meeting of the forum, as mandated by paragraph 93 of Decision 1/CP.16, to be held at the thirty-fifth sessions of the SBI and the SBSTA and hopes that it will be used to efficiently and effectively facilitate discussions under this agenda item.