



SUBMISSION BY SPAIN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

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

Madrid, 12 February 2010

Subject: Organisation of work for 2010

1. Spain and the European Commission, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, welcome the opportunity to submit their views in response to the invitation for submissions by the UNFCCC Secretariat on behalf of the joint chairs of the AWG-KP and the AWG-LCA on the need for additional meeting time of these negotiation tracks in 2010, including the possible number, duration and timing of such meetings, and on behalf of the Chair of the AWG-LCA on how best to advance the work of the AWG-LCA in 2010.
2. The EU and its Member States are fully committed to making progress in both negotiation tracks with a view to achieving the objective of limiting the increase in global average temperature to below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. To this end we reaffirm our full commitment to negotiate with other Parties, with a view to concluding as soon as possible within the UN framework a legally binding international agreement for the period starting 1 January 2013.
3. To achieve these important objectives the EU and its Member States express their full support to Mexico, as the host country of the next session of the COP and the COP/MOP, to make the necessary arrangements, present its ideas for enhancing the effectiveness of the process and facilitating the work towards a successful COP 16 and COP/MOP 6.
4. The EU and its Member States also welcome the election of Ms. Margaret Mukahanana-Sangarwe and Mr. Dan Reifsnyder as Chair and Vice-Chair of the AWG-LCA, and pledge to support them in their tasks. We reiterate our support to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the AWG-KP, Mr. John W. Ashe and Mr. Harald Dovland.

5. Some progress was accomplished in 2008 and 2009 but the EU regrets that notwithstanding the many sessions progress was limited on some of the key political issues. A number of texts, elaborated and discussed in Copenhagen in the context of the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP, reflect the current status of work. The Copenhagen Accord provides important additional input and guidance needed for the further elaboration and finalisation of these texts.
6. We consider it crucial to make the most effective and efficient use of time in 2010 and a larger number of sessions does not necessarily guarantee progress. Meetings in 2010 should be focused, with a clear and well-defined purpose. We need to focus on substantive discussions and avoid lengthy procedural discussions that could hinder progress. We need to ensure constructive negotiations and swift delivery of results, to progress in building trust among all Parties. Due consideration should also be given to how to appropriately interact with the Ministerial level, to enable ministers to provide additional guidance to support the negotiations in the AWGs and ensure the swift delivery of results.
7. Any future meetings must provide for the effective participation of all Parties, in particular developing country Parties, to strengthen the transparency, inclusivity and efficiency of the negotiating process. Sufficient time should be given to regional groups, during sessions and between sessions, to develop and coordinate their positions and prepare for the sessions.
8. As agreed in Copenhagen, both AWG-KP and AWG-LCA should continue their work in a comprehensive and balanced manner and any future meeting should bear in mind the need to maintain a coherent approach between the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. Both tracks should continue working in full negotiating mode to deliver a substantive and coherent outcome in Mexico at the end of this year. In addition, all aspects of the Bali Action Plan should be addressed in a balanced manner.
9. To conclude, the EU and its Member States are open to discuss with other Parties how to best make use of the negotiating time during 2010, in order to take a decision on whether additional time would be required by Parties before the Cancun Conference. We see merit in organising meetings of the AWGs in June, in conjunction with the SBs sessions. The EU and its Member States are open to explore the possibility of a short meeting before June, e.g. in April, but want to stress the importance of giving regional groups sufficient time to coordinate and develop their positions. The appropriate format of such a meeting would need to be carefully considered to ensure that it adds value. The EU considers that this session should be short and focused by being dedicated to swiftly clearing procedural questions, and to prepare the ground for engaging into substantive discussions. The suitability of a variety of options, such as short informal meetings should be considered in this regard. This could allow the June session and other additional meetings that could be needed to focus on substantial negotiations.