



## **SUBMISSION BY GREECE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia**

**Athens, 19 March 2014**

**Subject: Research and systematic observation – Views from Parties on possible topics for consideration as part of the research dialogue to be held during SBSTA 40. (FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 68)**

### **1. Introduction and General Comments**

The European Union and its 28 Member States (EU) welcome the opportunity to continue the Research dialogue between Parties and regional and international climate change research programmes and organizations. The EU considers the Research dialogue is a relevant forum to allow for an exchange and discussion on research findings and their communication, and to facilitate the dialogue between research programmes and policy makers, which is fundamental for the work of the Convention.

The EU notes that a “Workshop on technical and scientific aspects of ecosystems with high-carbon reservoirs not covered by other agenda items under the Convention” was held before SBSTA 39, following the request of the SBSTA 37 (FCCC/SBSTA/2012/5 para 50). The EU would like to thank the Secretariat for convening and organizing this workshop and all parties and regional and international research organizations and programmes which contributed to it.

The EU notes that the Working Group I contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC was extensively presented at COP19 in Warszawa in 2013. The EU would like to thank the Secretariat and the representatives of the IPCC and its Working Group I for their engagement and the useful provision of key information.

The EU notes that the Working Group II and III contributions to the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC will have been finalised ahead of SBSTA40, and looks forward to these to be extensively presented at SBSTA40 under relevant agenda items.



## **2. The Research Dialogue at SBSTA 40**

The EU welcomes the conclusions of SBSTA at its thirty-eight session (FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3) and notes the invitation to submit views on topics to be discussed at the Research Dialogue to take place during SBSTA 40.

As a specific topic for the Research Dialogue at SBSTA40, the EU considers that the science related to the polar regions, both the Arctic region and the Antarctic, would be a timely focus. The Arctic region is warming up particularly rapidly, which has direct impacts in the region including indigenous people and ecosystems and indirectly also to the whole global climate system. Examples of the latter are possible contributions to sea level rise from mass balance changes of the ice sheets, influences on mid-latitude weather patterns, possible mobilization of carbon in permafrost and socio-economic consequences following the opening up the Arctic region for human activities.

The EU also recognises the significance of other issues, which could be considered at later rounds of the Research Dialogue. Such issues include i) the role of the ocean in the climate system and climate change and the impacts of climate change on the ocean, ocean ecosystems and human food chains, and ii) top-down, independent verification of carbon sinks and sources, including new developments, possibilities and limitations related to observational techniques, measurement networks and inverse modelling of GHG sources and sinks.

## **3. Conclusions**

The EU looks forward to an active Dialogue process on this theme during SBSTA 40, and interacting with Parties and science experts.

The EU notes that there is a limited time for the Research Dialogue, and that it should aim at a focused attention on one topic, in order to allow for a consideration of information from international and regional research organisations and programmes. The Research Dialogue should cover recent scientific progress, new results on pertinent research questions, new emerging research questions and prospects of further addressing these.