



## STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

### **The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 8)**

#### **Opening plenary on 26 November 2012**

This statement is on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States and Croatia.

Madam Chair, distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

The EU and its 27 Member States would like to, first of all, express our gratitude for the hospitality extended by the state of Qatar in hosting the conference.

This conference will mark an important moment in the history of the Kyoto Protocol.. The EU comes to Doha to finalise our work on the outstanding issues, adopt all the amendments and decisions required to enable the Second Commitment Period to start on 1 January 2013 and thereby conclude the mandate of the AWG-KP.

We have to remind ourselves that the success of the Durban COP was not focused on one specific issue or track under the UN FCCC. The achievement of Durban lay in its outcome being a balanced political package.

We must take forward all elements of this package as agreed by our Ministers in Doha. This means progress towards the new, comprehensive agreement with legally-binding commitments for all by 2015 at the latest; towards enhancing mitigation ambition pre-2020; progress on implementation including closure of the LCA track to streamline negotiations; and, last, but not least, the adoption of the Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol.

Our commitment to an ambitious Second Commitment Period is demonstrated by our submission on the QELRO which we have put forward this year. We are prepared to adopt an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol that inscribes a new QELRO for the European Union and its Member States in Annex B. Even more than that, we have already put the legislation in place which translates our QELRO into a legally-binding commitment and ensures that we will start implementing our commitment as of 1 January 2013. This legislation already implements the QELRO into a legally-binding commitment under EU law; it will ensure that the European Union and its Member States will comply with their obligations and fulfil the 2020 target. It should go without saying that ratification and entry into force of amendments to the Protocol are clearly EU objectives.

Once we leave Doha with an amended Kyoto Protocol, the EU will start the immediate application of the 2nd commitment period in Doha as of 1 January 2013, regardless of the timing of ratification



by other Parties. We will also initiate our ratification processes as soon as possible. We want a legally binding 2nd commitment period.

We welcome the recent decision of Australia to join the group of Parties taking up a new commitment in the Second Commitment Period, and we are looking forward to the information they will provide on their QELRO. We continue to call on other Parties to join us..

We must have an 8 year commitment period to ensure consistency with the timetable for entry into force of the new single global legally binding agreement, allowing the Second Commitment Period to mark the transition to the new agreement. To address concerns on locking in low ambition, we have proposed concrete options to enable Parties to increase their ambition during the commitment period. Moreover, in the Second Commitment Period the flexible mechanisms will continue to play an important role for achieving ambitious mitigation

The Second Commitment Period must also ensure environmental integrity and continuity of the KP architecture and mechanisms, ensuring access for those with a QELRO from 1 January 2013. The EU is, as ever, strongly committed to the Kyoto Protocol which has a key role to play in the transition towards a single global legally binding agreement applicable to all.

We are all aware that agreement on the KP alone will not be enough to put us on track for our below 2 degrees goal. In the same way as the emission reductions committed to under the Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol are only one part of the emission reductions needed pre-2020, the success of the AWG-KP is also one, albeit an important, contribution to the overall success of the Doha outcome in which we need to see progress on all elements of the Durban package.

We look forward to working constructively with all Parties to enable the AWG-KP to conclude the outstanding issues related to the Second Commitment Period as it completes its mandate and closes in Doha.

Thank you.