

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

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Vilnius, 10 September 2013

Subject: Forum and work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures – submission on area (b) of the work programme

Introduction

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Technological Advice (SBSTA) at their thirty-sixth sessions invited Parties and relevant organisations to submit to the Secretariat, by 2 September 2013, views on area (b) of the work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures as contained in paragraph 1 of decision 8/CP.17. The EU welcomes this opportunity to share its views on this area of the work programme.

Area (b) – Cooperation on response strategies

2. The EU is of the view that cooperation on response strategies is of critical importance for tackling climate change at the global level.
3. The importance of response strategies, and of cooperation in their development and implementation, has been repeatedly stressed by the COP. It was explicitly referenced in decision 2/CP.17, which encouraged developing country Parties to elaborate “low-emission development strategies” (LEDS) and requested developed country Parties to share experiences on the development of LEDS at in-session workshops at SB 36 in May 2012. We note that the presentations and reports from these workshops are available online on the UNFCCC website.
4. LEDS outline the intended overall economic, energy and emissions trajectories for countries and help to identify trigger points for policy intervention while ensuring coherence with national development goals. They offer countries perspectives to avoiding lock-in of carbon intensive investments. They offer opportunities to involve stakeholders and different economic sectors and to create institutional capacity while pursuing positive impacts on growth, jobs, competitiveness, health, energy security, etc. We believe that LEDS can contribute to the identification of economic, social and environmental co-benefits of ambitious mitigation action, including those resulting from mitigation action by other countries. They thereby represent an important policy tool for minimising negative and maximising positive impacts of response measures in all countries.

5. The EU is actively cooperating with developing countries in the development and implementation of LEDS. For example, the EU is one of the key supporters of UNDP's "Low Emission Capacity Building Programme" which promotes essential cooperation between relevant institutions, engaging the public sector and industry in a concerted effort to address climate change consistent with national development priorities around the world. In addition, many EU fast-start finance projects specifically support the development of LEDS in developing countries. Further information on these initiatives is available online in the "Fast-start Finance Module" on the UNFCCC website. Finally, the EU cooperates on additional climate-related initiatives and projects as part of its external action, both bilaterally and regionally.

Conclusion

6. The EU looks forward to exchanging views and sharing information with other Parties relating to cooperation on response strategies as part of the final session of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures mandated by decision 8/CP.17. We hope that this last session will once again be used to efficiently and effectively facilitate discussions on this important topic.