



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

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

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Subject: Forum and work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures – submission on areas (a), (f) and (h) 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 17 September 2012, views on areas (a), (f) and (h) of the work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures as contained in paragraph 1 of decision 8/CP.17.

2. The EU welcomes this opportunity to share its views on these three areas of the work programme. As provided for by footnote *d* in Annex I of document FCCC/SBI/2012/15 (and the identical Annex III of document FCCC/SBSTA/2012/2), the EU's views on the three areas will be jointly addressed in the present submission.

On area (a) – Sharing of information and expertise, including reporting and promoting understanding of positive and negative impacts of response measures

3. Sharing of information and expertise, including reporting and promoting understanding of positive and negative impacts of response measures are a key element in the implementation of the provisions relating to the impact of the implementation of response measures under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

4. The EU is therefore of the view that sharing of information and expertise among Parties, experts, relevant organisations and civil society on the positive and negative impacts of response measures is a, if not the, central task of the forum and work programme established by decision 8/CP.17. This is underscored by paragraph 1 of decision 8/CP.17 which refers to the objective of the work programme as improving the understanding of the impact of the implementation of response measures.

5. The EU and its Member States are already reporting on the impacts of the implementation of response measures, both in National Communications and annually in National Inventory Reports. In addition to this regular reporting, all European legislative proposals and many national policy and project proposals are subject to mandatory comprehensive impact assessments.

6. For European legislative proposals, the European Commission assesses the potential economic, social and environmental consequences that these may have. This includes a proportionate assessment of the impacts on third countries, in particular developing countries, as well as an extensive stakeholder consultation. The impact assessment is a process that prepares evidence for political decision-makers on the advantages and disadvantages of possible policy options by assessing their potential impacts. This approach ensures that relevant expertise is drawn upon, including inputs from stakeholders. This system is both accountable and transparent. All EU impact assessments and all opinions of the Impact Assessment Board on their quality are published online once the Commission has adopted the relevant proposal. See http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/index_en.htm for further information.

7. While the EU is making significant efforts to understand and address the impacts of the implementation of response measures both inside the EU and vis-à-vis our partners, we would welcome more detailed and more structured information from other Parties, especially from developing country Parties, on what impacts they are experiencing “on the ground”. In addition to setting out how they are addressing impacts of the implementation of response measures (both response measures they are taking themselves, as well as response measures taken by other Parties in addressing climate change), this information should also point at the positive impacts of the implementation of those measures.

8. To this end, we would encourage all Parties to provide timely and regular information through existing channels, such as National Communications, National Inventory Reports and supplementary information. In addition, we believe that meetings of the forum should be used as a platform for sharing information and expertise in an interactive manner. Existing written information could be placed on a dedicated webpage of the UNFCCC website so that it may be more conveniently located and used.

On area (f) – Relevant aspects relating to the implementation of decisions 1/CP.10, 1/CP.13 and 1/CP.16 and Article 2, paragraph 3 and Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol

9. By establishing the forum and work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures in Durban, Parties decided to consolidate all progressive discussions, including negotiations, related to response measures in a single space under the Convention.

10. The EU welcomes this important development, which has allowed Parties to move away from discussions on purely procedural issues across multiple agenda items towards a much more constructive and focused engagement on substance, and which means that all aspects relating to the implementation of decisions 1/CP.10, 1/CP.13 and 1/CP.16 and Article 2, paragraph 3 and Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol are now within the remit of the forum and its work programme.

11. As the list of COP and CMP decisions contained in paragraph 1 (f) of decision 8/CP.17 makes explicit, the forum is tasked, as a part of its work programme, to discuss the substance of all of these decisions, including the Bali Action Plan (decision 1/CP.13). All discussions related to the impact of the implementation of response measures, including those that derive from the Bali Action Plan and initially discussed under the AWG-LCA, as well as those relating to the Kyoto Protocol, have found their new home under the forum and its work programme.

12. The EU is of the view that Parties who wish to raise issues relating to the impact of the implementation of response measures deriving from provisions of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, as well as from COP and CMP decisions on the subject should do so within the forum. This will allow discussions to continue to be well-arranged and well-structured.

On area (h) – Building collective and individual learning towards a transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting society

13. There is a general consensus on the need for all countries around the globe to undertake a global transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting society – which encompasses a society's economy – in order to tackle climate change.

14. In decision 1/CP.16, Parties for the first time recognised that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required according to science, and as documented in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, with a view to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions so as to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels, and that Parties should take urgent action to meet this long-term goal, consistent with science and on the basis of equity.

15. Building on this important common objective, Parties in decision 1/CP.17 decided to launch a process (the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action) which is, inter alia, tasked to raise the level of ambition by all Parties in effecting this transition.

16. The transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting society presents a major opportunity for all countries to follow a clean development path and implement sustainable policies while addressing climate change. This transition will have important co-benefits for health, employment and economic development. At the same time, the EU recognises that some countries may have concerns over challenges posed to their economies and societies by such a transition. It is therefore important that Parties share experiences and learn from each other so that the necessary transition can be efficiently and effectively implemented.

17. The EU is currently developing policies and strategies for the transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting society. Instruments already in place include the “climate and energy package”, containing targets for emission reductions, renewable energy and energy efficiency until 2020, and the “Europe 2020” strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. In addition, the European Commission has presented a “Roadmap for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050”, and a new “Energy Roadmap 2050”. More information on these policies is available at http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/package/index_en.htm, http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/roadmap/index_en.htm and http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy2020/roadmap/index_en.htm.



18. We would welcome more detailed and more structured information from other Parties on how they are effecting their economic and social transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting society. To this end, we would encourage all Parties to provide timely and regular information and to share their experiences with others. As already mentioned previously, we believe that meetings of the forum should be used as a platform for sharing information and expertise in an interactive manner. This includes information and expertise on the necessary transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting economy.

Conclusion

19. The EU looks forward to participating in the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures to be held at the thirty-seventh sessions of the SBI and the SBSTA and hopes that it will be used to efficiently and effectively facilitate discussions on this important topic.