

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

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

**Dublin, 19 March 2013**

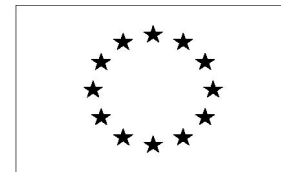
**Subject: Forum and work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures – submission on areas (c), (d), (e) and (g) of the work programme**

### **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 25 March 2013, views on areas (c), (d), (e) and (g) 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 four areas of the work programme. As provided for by footnote e 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 four areas will be jointly addressed in the present submission.

### **On area (c) – Assessment and analysis of impacts**

3. The EU is of the view that assessment and analysis of impacts of policies and measures taken to address climate change should be undertaken at the national level.
4. As stated in a previous submission, 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

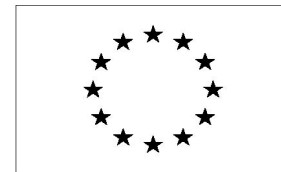


upon, including inputs from stakeholders. This system is both accountable and transparent. All EU impact assessments and all opinions of the Impact Assessment Board on their quality are published online once the European Commission has adopted the relevant proposal (see [http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/index_en.htm) for further information).

5. While the EU is making significant efforts to analyse, assess and address the impacts of the implementation of policies and measures to address climate change 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.

**On areas (d) – Exchanging experience and discussion of opportunities for economic diversification and transformation and (e) – Economic modelling and socio-economic trends**

6. We note at the outset that interlinkages exist between several topics in the forum’s work programme, including between the topics covered in areas (d), (e) and (g).
7. Economic diversification and socio-economic trends offer challenges and opportunities for all countries. These challenges and opportunities are of a broad and multi-faceted nature and often go beyond climate change and climate action.
8. That said, the EU believes that policies for economic diversification and in response to socio-economic trends can have significant co-benefits for addressing climate change. Conversely, policies and measures to address climate change can be a driver for economic diversification and have significant positive impacts on socio-economic trends – regardless of whether or not these trends are themselves caused by climate change.
9. Modelling tools developed at a national level and taking into account specific economic and social circumstances of countries can help in identifying policies and measures that maximise social, economic and environmental co-benefits.
10. As a part of its policy preparation, the EU uses a range of economic modelling tools to assess the possible impacts of policies to address climate change. These tools are used to examine the possible economic, environmental and social implications of possible policy options. Two sets of modelling tools can be distinguished: (1) Models that operate at a global level and (2) more detailed models that operate at an EU level including details for each EU Member State. The global models consist of long-term detailed energy



models that examine the diffusion of clean energy technologies over time, such as renewable and energy efficiency and analyse the impacts of energy policies and carbon taxes and carbon trading schemes. In addition, there are economic models (general equilibrium and macroeconomic models) that estimate the impact of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on GDP, employment, prices and other indicators such as export and imports.

11. At the EU level, a detailed energy model exists that can be used to access the impact of energy efficiency measures, renewable policies and carbon/energy taxes and emission trading on energy demand and supply and on the costs of providing energy. This model is linked to models that provide detail on the options and costs to reduce non-CO2 greenhouse emissions for each EU country and projects the development of the net carbon emissions of land use, land use change and forestry.

#### **On area (g) – Just transition of the workforce, and the creation of decent work and quality jobs**

12. The EU is of the view that successfully combating climate change will also contribute to moving to a sustainable, low greenhouse gas emitting economy and create new quality jobs.
13. We acknowledge that enabling such a transition is a major challenge of labour market policy in times of globalisation and accelerated change in our economies and societies and that it requires an efficient system of organising professional and job transition.
14. The EU actively pursues policies and measures related to job and professional transition and looks forward to sharing its experiences with others. Drawing from the lessons learned in the course of previous sectoral crises, the EU has developed a range of proactive measures and schemes of re-conversion and job transition which are connected to occupational reorientation, training and qualification as well as outplacement.
15. Despite a significant variety of country-specific backgrounds in individual Member States, we have identified three major groups of clusters of schemes applicable throughout – proactive mechanisms, mechanisms improving capacity for professional transition by training, and mechanisms improving the efficiency of systems and their institutions (see <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=782&langId=en>, including the report “Organising Transitions in response to restructuring” for further information). EU research has shown that practices related and systems in place are in a constant state of flux and no single path exists with regard to inventing, organising and funding employment and professional transition in response to restructuring. However, most of the schemes and programs would not exist or would not be able to run efficiently without



active social partner involvement at all levels (see <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=115&langId=en>, including the EMCO thematic report “Towards a greener labour market – The employment dimension of tackling environmental challenges (2010)” for further information).

16. We believe that an active exchange of experience and information of actors directly involved in the schemes and mechanisms organising job and professional transition would enable all Parties to explore and define adequate, nationally appropriate solutions.

## **Conclusion**

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