

STATEMENT

BY H.E. MR. BOYKO BORISSOV, PRIME MINISTER OF THE PEPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AT THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE COP 25

MADRID, 2 DECEMBER 2019

Madam President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

My participation here today is of utmost importance to me because I strongly believe that the future of our planet and our children depends on us and on the decisions taken during this Forum.

Climate change is a serious and imminent threat that will not leave anyone unaffected. Climate change is a threat multiplier for peace and security, with serious consequences for the entire world. Against the background of the extremely alarming facts and scientific scenarios and projections, I am happy that the EU and its Member States, including Bulgaria, not only recognize the seriousness of the problem, but are also working actively and are at the forefront of this crucial battle for humanity and planet Earth.

Jointly with the other Member States of the European Union, we will exceed the EU's overall target of a 20% reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. The available data shows that the EU reduced its emissions by 22% between 1990 and 2017, while our GDP grew by 58%. In 2014, we adopted an even more ambitious target - to reduce our emissions by at least 40% by 2030. The EU has adopted all the necessary legislation in order to meet this target, and the analyses show that when fully implemented, the measures for 2030 will enable the EU to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 45% compared to 1990 levels by 2030.

Within the European Union, we are actively working on the EU Long-term strategy. We are discussing the ways to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 in a just and solidary way that is in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

We are aware that climate neutrality is a major challenge that will require a radical transformation of our economy and society, especially given the short time for reaction. The achievement of this strategic goal will require the mobilization of significant administrative and financial resources, as well as coordination and joint action in all areas of public life. But it will also provide new opportunities for sustainable development. The European Union is working hard towards implementing the Paris Agreement and we are

on the way of exceeding the goal to achieve a balance of emissions by the second half of the century.

It is important to ensure a smooth and fair transition for all countries that is implemented in a cost-effective manner applying the principle of technological neutrality. It should be taken into account that in countries with a high share of coal in their energy mix, such as Bulgaria, this transition will require higher levels of investment and active measures in the social sector. In Bulgaria, 46% of electricity is generated by coal-fired power plants, which are the main baseload capacity, and in winter this percentage reaches 60. At the same time, I would like to highlight that according to Eurostat, Bulgaria is second in the EU in reducing CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion in 2018 compared to 2017, with 8.1%, following Portugal, which is in the lead with 9%.

Promoting and developing regional cooperation is also crucial in the fight against climate change. The Bulgarian government gives priority to this issue. The availability of reliable electricity and gas infrastructure projects is key to achieving the goal of improving the energy interconnections between EU Member States and neighboring countries, as well as to ensuring an adequate balance of capacities due to the growing share of renewable energy by 2030.

For Bulgaria, nuclear energy plays an important role in guaranteeing the national, regional and European energy security, while at the same time providing affordable electricity and acting as a key element in the transition to low-carbon economy. Its importance as a main pillar of the CO2-free European electric power system was also reaffirmed in the Commission's long-term vision for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, published in 2018. Our country will continue to rely on nuclear energy over the coming years.

Last but not least, I cannot let this opportunity pass without highlighting that the EU's emissions are only 9% of the world's emissions. We cannot and should not expect that the EU alone can tackle the global problem of climate change. Without the active and ambitious efforts of all parties, achieving a significant and tangible result will be impossible. Therefore, I would like to urge you all to take active action. Because the prosperity of our planet depends on our joint efforts, on whether we are successful or we fail to deliver actual results!

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that a general transformation will require as a must the active involvement of the entire society, the private and financial sectors, and above all, a change in the behavior of each of us.