

Paris-Ile-de-France Statement of Regional Governments to the EU

On the road to COP16 and a low carbon economy

In Copenhagen in December 2009, regardless of the disappointing response from national governments to conclude a legally binding agreement at the UN summit on climate change, leaders of Federated States and Regional Governments affirmed, in a spirit of leadership, their willingness to pursue their partnerships and implementing change.

Following the Climate Leaders Summit of December 15th 2009 in Copenhagen, and ahead of the 2010 European Spring Council (25-26 March 2010) and upcoming climate talks, major Federated States and Regional Governments and their respective networks have gathered on March 4th, 2010 in Paris-Île-de-France at the invitation of Steve Howard, CEO of The Climate Group and Jean-Paul Huchon, President of Île-de-France Region, and have taken this opportunity to state that they:

- **Welcome** the Copenhagen Accord commitments on funding, the agreement to keep global temperature from rising above 2° C – in line with the IPCC's 4th Assessment Report - and the 2015 assessment of its implementation in relation to temperature rise of 1,5°, but emphasise that COP 15 has not created sufficient momentum to accelerate the low carbon economy and that reaching an international and binding agreement at COP16 in Cancun (Mexico) is therefore crucial;
- **Reaffirm** the commitments included in the Copenhagen Statement of Federated States and Regional Governments of December 15th 2009 on low carbon technologies and international cooperation and especially, the fact that 50% to 80% of mitigation and adaptation actions are implemented at the subnational levels of government;
- **Welcome** the European Commission's decision to create two new portfolios inside the College of Commissioners and to create two new Directorates-General, one for Energy and the other for Climate Action, emphasising that climate action and energy policy are central to European decision-making; and welcome the communication of March 3rd, 2010 on the new economy for Europe
- **Support** EU initiatives by the European Commission, the European Parliament, EU member states, and actors of the civil society and the private sector confirming the EU's commitment to lead in climate change negotiations and by policy example;
- **Reiterate** their call to see the EU, through the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian EU Presidencies continuing to lead towards an ambitious international agreement on climate change and therefore, ask the European leaders to increase the EU GHG emissions reduction target in order to encourage other countries to follow suit;
- **Consider** as very desirable and advisable, to build on the Lisbon Treaty, to establish an efficient, effective and united representation mechanism of the European Union for the forthcoming UNFCCC negotiations;
- **Invite** the EU to develop its own Low Carbon Economy Strategy, based on the Climate and Energy Package and truly believe that a more ambitious policy on climate change will be to the benefit of the EU's economy. Without continued leadership, the EU could be left behind in the clean technology race as the US, China and other industrialised countries and emerging economies are already making large-scale investments in this area;
- **Underline** the importance of carbon markets and flexible mechanisms in efficiently achieving global mitigation objectives but also raise some concern about the possibility that without an ambitious binding international agreement, safeguards to avoid carbon leakage may be necessary;

- **Call** the EU to intensify cooperation with the other Annex 1 parties in order to build a common understanding on different emission reduction pathways for industrialised countries to achieve the 2°C target;
- **Call on** the new Commission to make binding energy savings targets a top priority as part of the upcoming Energy Efficiency Action Plan. Energy savings efforts can extend limited resources and help reduce emissions at the lowest possible cost; they will help create thousands of new jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign fossil energy sources;
- **Stress** that the successor to the Lisbon Strategy needs to include clear incentives to promote low carbon and green technologies, and suggest the development of a system to “climate proof” projects that are financed by the European Union. Climate change and energy must indeed be truly at the heart of the “EU 2020 Strategy” if Europe wants to remain competitive in the future world of relatively high energy prices and carbon constraints. To be successful, this EU 2020 Strategy must also be implemented at the local and regional level, and promote subnational climate change plans;
- **Insist** on the opportunity to strengthen the sustainable development dimension of sectoral policies, including energy policy, transport policy, industrial policy, research, development and innovation policy and, last but not least, regional policy;
- **Will pay full attention to** the EU budget review process which is currently under way. The debate about the next financial perspectives must reflect the Union’s challenge which consists of transforming the present development model into one that is focused on low carbon emissions and a reduced dependence on fossil fuels;
- **Call for** a strong commitment on EU regional policy that gives all the EU regions the adequate means to implement effective regional adaptation and mitigation actions within their territories. Regional governments are essential when it comes to implementing EU climate change policy. If genuinely empowered and resourced; they have the potential to ensure that ambitious targets for the reduction of global GHG emissions are met;
- **Reiterate** that the federated states and regions are key actors in the energy revolution, and that there cannot be an effective fight against climate change unless they are included and recognised in the collective effort. Federated states and regional governments are indeed already putting in place policies supporting the low carbon economy and actively implementing intelligent energy policies on the ground. Therefore, leading subnational governments and their networks should receive explicit recognition on their role in tackling climate change by the EU, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- **Cooperate** with emerging and developing countries to build the necessary trust and strengthening North-South links – to reach an operational international agreement on climate change. This is being achieved through direct co-operation between EU regions and those from emerging and developing countries around sustainable development, through the promotion of energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, the use of clean technologies, and territorial climate plans
- **Emphasise** the need to strengthen the coordination and cooperation amongst different inter-regional initiatives, including the St. Malo nrg4SD¹ Declaration of the World Summit of Regions, the AER²-Belfort Call for Action on Climate Change, and others such as the Declaration of the Governors Summit in Los Angeles and the proposed R20.
- **Firmly believe** that cooperation between European and North American federated states and regions can reinforce Trans-Atlantic collaboration on climate change and welcome the active contribution of California and Quebec;
- **Are engaged** in an enduring partnership and collaborative strategy among federated states and regions in Europe and globally, so as to move forward towards major meetings that are scheduled to take place at the nrg4SD Summit in Montevideo in April 2010 and in Bonn in June 2010 before the third Governors Climate Summit in Los Angeles in September 2010 and before COP 16 in Cancun, Mexico, in November 2010 and;

¹ Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development

² Assembly of the European Regions

- **Call upon** national governments that are Parties to the UNFCCC to build on the Copenhagen Accord, and to conclude a legally binding and ambitious treaty in 2010 in Cancun, Mexico.

Jean-Paul Huchon
President of Île de France Region

Steve Howard
CEO of The Climate Group

Endorsed by:

AER

Vice-President of ÎDF and President of the AER, Michelle Sabban

CPMR

Claudio Martini, President of Tuscany Region and of CPMR and FOGAR

ENCORE

Alfredo Boné, Minister for the Environment of Aragon and Co-chair of ENCORE

nrg4SD

Jane Davidson, Minister for Housing and the Environment of Wales and co-chair of nrg4SD

Supporting regional governments:

Aragon, Basque Country, Bavaria, Brittany, Catalonia, Île de France, North Rhine Westphalia, Rhône-Alpes, Scotland, South Holland, Tuscany, Wales, South Holland, Wallonia (to be completed)

Observers:

Québec, California

Para (Brazil), Oriental (Morocco), Delta State (Nigeria)

References:

- Montreal Declaration of the Federated States and Regional Governments on Climate Change (2005)
- Saint Malo Declaration of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, nrg4SD (2008)
- Los Angeles Global Climate Solutions Declaration (2009)
- Copenhagen Statement of the Federated States and Regional Governments to the UNFCCC (2009)