

## **JOINT STATEMENT**

### **of the informal meeting of ministers and representatives responsible for climate policy of the Visegrad Group Countries, Bulgaria and Romania**

**11 October 2013, Budapest, Hungary**

Minister of the Republic of Poland, and Representatives of Environment Ministries of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia

- reaffirming the importance of the cooperation of the Visegrad Group countries together with other countries of the region in the field of climate policy;
- bearing in mind the previous meetings of Visegrad Group ministers responsible for climate policy;
- recognizing the EU has to play an important role in the international climate change arena;
- noting that the 19th session of Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 19) and the 9th session of Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 9) will be hosted by Poland, a Member of the Eastern European Group;

have agreed as follows:

The 19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 9th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, which takes place 11-22 November 2013 in Warsaw, represents a crucial milestone towards adopting a new international agreement on climate change at the Paris COP in 2015. The aim of the Warsaw COP is to lay the foundations for the future agreement, with a special attention on the legal framework, to enable Parties to develop commitments in a transparent and efficient manner. To have a balanced outcome in Warsaw, the EU should focus on engaging all Parties in the process, as global warming can only be limited to 2 C and the emission gap can only be closed with a global effort. Concerted action is all the more necessary as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has reinforced in its 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report that climate change is happening at a greater speed and a larger scale than expected.

Ministers and Representatives have also agreed that the Warsaw COP should give high emphasis to preserving the integrity of the UNFCCC process. Firstly, it is important to widen participation. The Polish COP Presidency should cooperate closely with past and future COP Presidencies, and build partnerships with the business sector, civil society, and local government. Secondly, the work under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation needs to be resumed, so that Doha decisions can be implemented in due time.

Ministers and Representatives have noted with content the success of the 2-4 October High-Level Informal Consultations (Pre-COP), which has delivered results in terms of enhanced dialogue with the business community, enhanced understanding on areas of the new agreement and loss and damage, and clear indications from the invited Parties on key deliverables for Warsaw. There are still some outstanding issues to be further considered by Parties, among others, the content of the core text of the agreement, the operationalisation of

the rules and numbers process, and the nature and organization of the so called consultative phase.

In preparing for the 14 October Environment Council, Ministers and Representatives have discussed the Council's conclusions on the Warsaw COP.

In this context, Ministers and Representatives have agreed as follows:

As for the ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, the EU should aim at a swift completion of the ratification, and the implementation of its 2020 commitments under the second commitment period, in order to encourage other Parties to complete their ratification processes in due time. However, Ministers and Representatives have highlighted the importance of a fair and balanced Joint Fulfilment Agreement, which takes into consideration all important elements inside and outside the legislation of EU's Climate Energy Package.

As for pre-2020 mitigation ambition, the EU should maintain its ambition level, and encourage other developed countries to join the EU in taking the lead in combating climate change and its adverse effects by making similarly ambitious commitments. The EU's ultimate objective should be to set the scene for a 2015 International Climate Change Agreement, which aims at global emission reduction, and enables all Parties to take part in the process, even developing ones, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities, bearing in mind that the responsibilities and capabilities evolve over time.

As for domestic processes, we support the EU's readiness to contribute to global efforts by reducing its GHG emissions by 80% by 2050 as a part of global agreement, in a balanced and cost efficient manner. In order to proceed, the EU should develop its 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, but should pay utmost attention to making it balanced and equitable, and which helps all Member States to grow in a sustainable manner, and preserve their competitiveness and energy security.

Done in Budapest, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2013

For Bulgaria

For the Czech Republic

For Hungary

For Poland

For Romania

For Slovakia