



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 14 February 2017
(OR. en)

6320/17

ENV 136
CLIMA 38
ONU 27
RELEX 136

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Paris Agreement: International developments

Delegations will find in the Annex a note on the above, submitted jointly by the Netherlands and France, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 28 February 2017.

Paris Agreement: International developments

- Information from the Netherlands and French delegations -

Just over a year ago, the world adopted the Paris Agreement. This landmark agreement marks a new phase in the global fight against climate change and its impacts. Strong global leadership led to this agreement. Leadership by the French COP Presidency, joint leadership by the United States and China, by small island developing states, by least developed countries, among others.

Now we are embarking on the next step: the implementation of climate policies and actions under the Paris Agreement, as it has entered into force on 4 November 2016, less than one year after its adoption at COP21 and before the start of the Marrakech conference. Today, 131 countries representing more than 80% of GES have ratified the Paris Agreement and this number keeps on increasing.

Similar leadership, both by governments and non-Party stakeholders, is needed to make the Paris Agreement work. In Marrakesh, at COP22, governments and non-Party stakeholders demonstrated great determination to push ahead with the Paris Agreement.

The Council, at its discussion on the follow up of COP21 on March 10, 2016, confirmed that the EU and its Member States need to work closely with our partners to maintain the positive momentum of Paris, and continue to support strong coordinated action through active European climate diplomacy. Continued collaboration with businesses and local and regional governments also helps to maintain momentum and facilitate the delivery of the Paris commitments.

As the new US administration is signaling a possible change of course on climate policy, the EU must be ready to respond. The Netherlands and France propose therefore that the EU ministers responsible for environment and climate change clearly signal the EU's determination to implement the Paris Agreement in close cooperation with global partners, including the adoption of the implementation decisions in 2018 at the latest. Stressing that the transition the world has embarked upon is not only necessary and irreversible, but also holds many opportunities for resilient and low-carbon growth.

As a major signal, the Netherlands and France call for the completion of the Paris Agreement ratification's process by all EU Member States, and jointly, for the completion of the final step regarding the process of ratification of the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.
