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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Road map to COP28 and beyond - priorities for EU's climate diplomacy efforts
	- Request by the Danish & German Delegations for an AOB item

Delegations will find attached a note from the Danish and German Delegations concerning “the road map to COP28 and beyond – priorities for EU’s climate diplomacy efforts”. The topic will be included as an “Any other business” item on the agenda for the **Foreign Affairs Council** on 20 July 2023.

AOB item requested by Denmark and Germany for the FAC (20 July 2023)**Presentation of non-paper**

Denmark and Germany would like to inform about their intent to present a non-paper "Road map to COP28 and beyond- priorities for EU's climate diplomacy efforts" on behalf of members of the "Group of Friends on ambitious EU climate diplomacy" under AOB at the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 July. Please find the paper attached to this note.

The Group of friends was founded on 17 October 2022 on the margins of the Foreign Affairs Council by Denmark and Germany. Its aims are: (1) Strengthening the climate-security nexus in EU foreign policy; (2) Accelerating a global energy transition and phase-out of fossil fuels in line with the Paris Agreement by actively implementing the foreign policy dimension of the EU Green Deal; (3) Mainstreaming of climate policy in EU diplomacy and improved coordination and division of labor within the EU.

The paper is shared on behalf of the following members of the Group of Friends: Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Sweden.

18 July 2023

Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands,
Slovenia and Sweden

Road map to COP28 and beyond– priorities for EU's climate diplomacy efforts

Climate and energy diplomacy is a core component of the EU's global outreach. Therefore, and to follow up on the FAC council conclusions of March 2023 on climate and energy diplomacy, the EU should strengthen its climate diplomacy efforts ahead of COP28 and beyond to lay the foundation for a sustained engagement in this regard. An engagement that should in the first instance contribute to a Global Stocktake political phase that provides a meaningful and tangible plan for meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, allowing us to close the gap in 2030 ambition and feed the domestic preparation of the next round of NDCs to be presented in 2025 for the post-2030 period. The EU should work for a COP28 outcome ambitious on both mitigation and adaptation including phasing out all fossil fuels, agreeing on global goals on renewable energy and energy efficiency, enhanced global action on water and demonstrating progress on climate finance (\$100 bn, article 2.1.c of the Paris Agreement) and establishing new funding arrangements and a fund for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to loss and damage.

To make the best use of EU climate diplomacy capacity, EEAS, COM and Member States need to step up their efforts, in a cooperative and coordinated manner.

Multilateral engagement and engagement with non governmental actors

The dialogue with the UN, as well as current and future COP presidencies should be strengthened, including through discussions at the FAC on 1) how the EU can leverage its foreign policies at large through its global outreach and climate diplomacy efforts and 2) how the EU can contribute to a strong multilateral response to the climate crisis and the transition to low carbon, climate resilient development pathways. It is also of crucial importance to deliver on the goal to double finance on climate adaptation.

Safe and impactful participation of civil society and non-governmental actors is a priority for all UN processes, and something that should be the substance of conversations with relevant UN bodies and COP presidencies moving forward. The engagement with non-government actors, civil society, knowledge institutes and the private sector, should also be encouraged – both to push for greater ambition towards a just and human rights-based and gender transformative transitions to

net-zero emissions, to share solutions to accelerate the transition in partner countries and to discuss effective and innovative approaches to aligning financial flows with the goals of the Paris Agreement and delivering high quality climate finance.

The roadmap to COP28 will see a series of important international summits, which provide avenues for furthering EU climate diplomacy priorities. This includes the G20 Energy ministerial and Climate and Environment ministerial in July and the G20 Leaders Summit on 9-10 September, the African Climate Summit on 4-6 September, the UNSG's Climate Ambition Summit on 20 September, the IEA International Climate and Energy Summit on 2 October and the pre-COP on 30-31 October. The EU and Member States should use these summits for priority engagement and aligned communication. Regular bilateral dialogues in a Team EU spirit, EU summits and events like the EU-CELAC in July and the German Compact for Africa conference in November should also be used to better connect our bilateral engagement to the multilateral outcomes we are working towards.

The Marrakesh World Bank Group and IMF annual meeting in October is an important stepping stone for the EU to promote the needed momentum and progress in the reform process of the MDBs and International Financial Institutions in the wake of the Summit for a global financing pact in Paris in June. They need to become fit for purpose to mobilize the finance for 18 July 2023 Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Sweden transformational investments necessary to achieve the Paris Agreement goals and accelerate the transition to climate neutrality and resilience – including increased investment in adaptation, resilience and infrastructure fit for wide-scale renewables deployment.

Strengthened engagement with partner countries

While continuing to engage with partners in developed countries, a particular effort must be made to strengthen the cooperation with partner countries in the Global South. The EEAS should instruct all EU delegations to prepare together with Member States country analysis that outlines climate challenges, opportunities and narratives in each country, and propose key areas where cooperative climate diplomacy efforts could unlock enhanced implementation and action. Focus should be on enhanced exchange of information and better coordination of engagements and action of the EU and the Member States, including joint initiatives, investment opportunities (EIB, bilateral DFIs), external communication activities with emphasis on increasing the visibility of our efforts, joint LTT and joint reporting to headquarters.

Within the Foreign Affairs Council, Coreper and Council geographical working parties, climate diplomacy related and country-specific developments should be discussed at a regular basis. Also related intelligence should be routinely presented and discussed, to systematically consider the effects of the climate and energy crises on EU foreign policy at large and strengthen capacity in line with council conclusions.

Strengthened climate diplomacy engagement and support to green energy transition in selected countries must take place with the development and just transition agenda in mind and in a Team EU spirit.

By accelerating the efforts to make safe, clean and sustainable energy accessible to all, the EU should showcase viable alternatives to fossil fuel-dominated development models. JETP-style multi-donor pooling approaches, the Global Gateway push on green energy infrastructure and infrastructure fit for renewables and Team Europe initiatives should be promoted for this purpose and lead to a common understanding on forward-leaning action until 2030, contributing also to a just transition for communities and workers with a gender responsive approach.

EU's climate diplomacy engagement: strengthened communication and better coordination

The EU's joint efforts in communicating the development and economic opportunities entailed in the shift to its own sustainable and climate-neutral development pathways should be strengthened through strategic communication. Furthermore, more must be done to broadcast what the EU is doing on just and sustainable green energy transition, water-secure development as well as supporting adaptation efforts in partner countries. EU delegations are encouraged to draw up a yearly action plan in priority countries (to be identified) for enhanced climate diplomacy efforts in cooperation with Member States on the ground to be sent to both the Green Diplomacy Network (GDN) and the Working Party on International Environment Issues, Climate Change (WPIEI CC). To better align our climate diplomacy efforts with the international regular back-to-back meetings between the GDN and the WPIEI could be considered. Furthermore, the EEAS with support of the GDN should make sure that that climate is mainstreamed in all regional dialogues of the EU.