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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) (Glasgow, 31 October-13 November 2021) – Information from the Presidency and the Commission

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Presidency and the Commission on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 20 December 2021.

**26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26)
(Glasgow, 31 October-13 November 2021)**

– Information from the Presidency and the Commission –

United Kingdom, in partnership with Italy, presided over the **26th United Nations Climate Change Conference** (“COP26”) that took place from 31 October to 13 November 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

As the primary annual global climate-related event, COP26 brought together 197 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as representatives of business, civil society and academia to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement. The adopted package, the so-called **Glasgow Climate Pact**, is a global compromise that reflects a delicate balance between the interests and aspirations of the nearly 200 Parties to the core instruments on the international regime that governs global efforts against climate change.

One of the EU’s priorities for COP26 was to complete **the Rulebook** for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, with rules to ensure robust accounting for the use of international carbon markets, while preserving environmental integrity and avoiding double counting. At COP26, the key missing elements of the Rulebook were adopted, i.e. an encouragement that Parties adopt a five-year common time Frame for their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) from 2035 onward, robust accounting rules for international carbon markets and the operationalization of an ambitious international offset mechanism, and common reporting formats for to ensure transparency and accountability. After six years, by largely having concluded the negotiations on the Katowice Rulebook, Parties can now focus on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and on achieving the objectives therein.

COP26 reiterated the importance of accelerating **mitigation action** in the ongoing crucial decade, as global carbon dioxide emissions will need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 (in comparison to 2010), and all greenhouse gas emissions reach net zero around mid-century to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius target. Accordingly, Parties were requested to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their NDCs, in line with the latest scientific findings and as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal, by the end of 2022. With this in mind, an annual ministerial round table will be convened with the aim of increasing the pre-2030 ambition, which had been a strong call from the EU. Parties were also urged to communicate their Long Term Strategies towards a just transition to net zero emissions by or around mid-century. For the first time Parties agreed on phasing down unabated coal power and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and to consider further action to reduce by 2030 non CO₂ emissions, including methane.

In the field of **adaptation**, a two-year Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme was established that will enable a process for identifying the necessary elements for monitoring progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation. The outcome of the COP26 went further than ever before in recognising the need to avert, minimize and address **loss and damage** associated with the adverse impacts of climate change. The Santiago Network for catalysing technical assistance for the implementation of relevant approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage has been strengthened, and a dialogue to discuss arrangements for the funding of activities was launched.

As regards **climate finance**, COP26: (a) welcomed the delivery plan for the USD 100bn goal set by developed countries in Paris; (b) urged developed countries to at least double their collective financial assistance for adaptation to developing countries by 2025 (compared to 2019); (c) initiated a process for setting a new collective quantified financial post-2025 goal; and (d) welcomed the additional announcements from a number of developed countries that will increase their financial contributions to assist developing countries in tackling climate change.

Other important outcomes of COP26 include *inter alia* the launch of the preparations for the global Stocktake, the work on agriculture, the work on gender and climate change, and the adoption of the 10-year Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE).

The Global Climate Action High-level Event was organised under the auspices of the High-Level Climate Champions and Marrakech Partnership, among several other events where non-Party stakeholders showcased progress and presented opportunities in order to inspire and incentivise efforts by all stakeholders. The EU will continue to support the global climate agenda and the work of all non-Party stakeholders in the fight against climate change.

Beyond the mandated agenda, Leaders and ministers made bold commitments through plurilateral statements and declarations. Through the **Glasgow Leaders' declaration on forests and land use**, leaders from over 120 countries, representing about 90 per cent of the world's forests, pledged to halt deforestation by 2030. Further, a **Global Methane Pledge** was launched, led by the European Union and the United States, by which more than 100 countries agreed to cut global emissions of this greenhouse gas by 30 % from 2020 levels by 2030. Over 40 leaders joined the **Breakthrough Agenda**, a 10-year plan to work together to create green jobs and growth globally, making clean technologies and solutions the most affordable, accessible and attractive option before 2030. Plenty of **sectoral initiatives** were also launched during the presidency theme days, such as a Statement on International Public Support for the Clean Energy Transition, a Declaration on Accelerating the Transition to 100 % Zero Emission Cars and Vans, and an International Aviation Climate Ambition Coalition in view of reducing aviation CO₂ emissions.

Looking forward, **the EU will continue to work with partners to raise global ambition**, including by urging Parties to enhance their NDCs to align with the Paris temperature goal by COP27 at the end of 2022, to come forward with Long Term Strategies towards just transition to net zero emissions by mid-century, and to take urgent action to implement these targets and strategies. The gap on the \$100 billion climate finance goal needs to be closed, while support for adaptation must be increased. The issue of loss and damage will grow in importance and the EU stands ready to engage with those who already today suffer from climate-induced catastrophe.