



STOP CLIMATE CHANGE
PLAY YOUR PART

Outcome of the COP 18 climate negotiations Doha - December 2012

Climate talks continue to sleepwalk

After two weeks of negotiations the 18th round of UN climate talks ended with a disappointing set of deals signed off by 195 countries, collectively called the 'Doha Climate Gateway'.

While those agreements signed in Doha [safeguard](#) the future of the UN climate process itself, the package clearly fails to make any progress with the combat against global warming or to safeguard poor and vulnerable populations [threatened](#) by ongoing climate change. Indeed, rich countries failed to make any real commitments to cut emissions or deliver on climate finance pledges. The lack of ambition of political leaders, who continue to ignore the scientific arguments and the numerous signals from various international bodies urging more climate action to avoid global warming beyond 2°C, is inexcusable.

Once again, governments put national short-term interest ahead of long-term global survival. Their inability to find common ground to combat a common threat is worrying and goes against the demand of the majority of citizens, who have understood the emergency to act on the climate front at global level. The disastrous Typhoon Bopha, which [hit](#) the Philippines while the negotiators were all comfortably sited at the UN talks, reminded us of the human cost of extreme weather in vulnerable countries. The final decision by politicians not to increase the speed or scale of efforts to cut carbon pollution after such a clear signal is simply irresponsible. [Scientists now say](#) that with the weak commitments agreed in Doha, the world is likely to warm 3°C this century.

The very small steps achieved at the COP18 in Doha shows how difficult it will be to deliver a truly meaningful accord in the next three years. Pressure now needs to intensify so a serious and ambitious global deal can be agreed upon in 2015.

A cowardly EU led by a selfish Poland

The Greens/EFA group is particularly [critical](#) of the lack of leadership of the EU, which showed no political courage and failed to consolidate the relationship and trust it had established with poorer, climate-vulnerable countries last year at the [COP17](#) in Durban.

This year, the EU came with no mandate on some important aspects (such as the AAUs and financing) that would have helped move the climate negotiations forward. As a consequence [a lot of precious time was lost](#) with the EU states unable to find a common position on the ['hot air' issue](#) because of [Poland's](#) unwillingness to cede on what it considered to be its own rights. The Polish government - which insisted on hosting the next COP19! - also [prevented the EU from moving to an improved 30% by 2020 emissions reduction target](#), despite the fact that it has already achieved its current 20% by 2020 target 7 years early.

A lack of commitment vis-à-vis the most vulnerable countries

Once again the majority of developed countries showed no flexibility despite the [powerful](#)

[words and tears](#) from the lead negotiator of the Philippines who urged all parties to agree on decisive measures to combat dangerous global warming and deal with its impacts immediately.

This year's climate talks were presented as being merely technical, with several negotiators confirming before the meeting that no pledges would be made. Indeed, [cutting emissions remained off the table](#). The extension of the Kyoto Protocol until 2020, which is presented as a victory by some parties, will accomplish little as it [only accounts for 15% of global emissions](#). Apart from the EU, Australia, and six other States, all the other [Annex 1 countries refused to sign up to the second commitment period](#). Its main goal will now only be limited to maintaining its legally binding regime architecture, which will hopefully serve for the next global treaty to be agreed upon by 2015.

Rich countries also failed to provide clear financial pledges and information regarding the €100 billion annual fund to tackle climate change impacts. While national [pledges](#) for climate finance were made by [Denmark, Sweden, Germany, France and the UK](#), most countries refused to fulfil their promises, agreeing only on a final text "encouraging" rich nations to mobilize the \$10bn a year that they had [already promised](#) to pay up until 2020.

After several days of heated debate, the richest nations finally [agreed](#) to officially recognise that ['loss and damage'](#) was being suffered by poor nations already dealing with the impacts of climate change. For the first time the phrase ["loss and damage from climate change"](#) has been enshrined in an international legal document. However, there was no supporting agreement to fund climate aid.

An addiction to fossil fuels

Climate change is becoming more and more tangible. A few days ago, 2012 was reported as being the [ninth hottest year on record](#). Scientists have underlined for several years now the urgency to put an end to the world addiction to fossil fuels and the need to start phasing them out and massively invest in renewables. A [recent analysis](#) made by [Oil change International](#) revealed that rich countries spend five times more on fossil-fuel subsidies than on aid to help developing nations cut their emissions and protect against the effects of climate change!

The [Greens/EFA](#) group has always [called for ending](#) fossil fuel subsidies, which distort global energy markets and encourage wasteful consumption. Europe has a key role to play in this worldwide debate: For the moment, [Finland's](#) climate finance represents 2 percent of their yearly fossil fuel subsidies while the UK and Denmark give respectively 8 times and 18 times more to fossil fuel companies in subsidies than their climate finance... It clearly makes little sense to show willingness to be a leader in the fight against [climate change](#) and yet [not stop funding the problem!](#)

The UNFCCC put into question

The UN is the only venue that brings all countries together and provides a common arena that enhances transparency and accountability among countries. However, the UN effectiveness depends only on political willingness to act and once again the disappointing outcome of this last COP has put the whole process in [question](#). NGOs, businesses and scientists are now making several calls for a redoubling of efforts to curb climate change and tackle impacts at other levels (bilaterally, regionally, and nationally).

Some positive developments

Despite a clear lack of ambition, there are nevertheless some positive elements worth noting. Among those were the [Dominican Republic's pledge to reduce its carbon emissions](#) 25% by 2030 from 2010 levels (which it will implement unconditionally, and with its own money); official promises by Japan, the Lichtenstein, Switzerland, Monaco, Norway and Australia to not buy any AAUs during the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol; Belarus' [announcement](#) that it will start its own domestic carbon market in 2014; the [agreement](#) by governments to put more women in key negotiating roles and the new negotiating alliance between Latin America and the Caribbean based on the need for countries to act on the basis of their capabilities, and not wait until others act first.

Towards a new global agreement in 2015

This year, [the COP](#) gave the impression of being a mere housekeeping exercise, [parties](#) continue to postpone discussion on the key issue - filling the void of lack of climate ambition - to future COPs.

The work under the [Durban Platform](#) must be speeded up and the EU must gear up to ensure that serious progress is made both on the 2015 agreement and the pre-2020

climate ambition and must ensure that its keeps its financial promises, which must be new and additional and not just a mere recycling of development aid.

For the next three years the Greens/EFA group is determined to do its very best to push Europe into leading by example and to ensure that more CO2 emissions reductions are made at home so that the Union can really deliver on its promises at international level and demonstrate that the only way to face our climate challenge is by shifting to a green economy.



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament