



## EU regional governments call for a 30% GHG emission reduction target

Currently endorsed by: Baden-Württemberg, the Basque Country, Bavaria, Brittany, Catalonia, Cornwall, Ile de France, Rhone-Alpes, Scotland, Wales

Leading EU regional Governments first issued a joint declaration on more ambitious EU climate action at The Climate Group's conference in Paris in March 2010 emphasising the important role of regional governments in mitigation and adaptation actions.

The Cancun Statement, signed by global sub-national governments at the Climate Leaders Summit in December 2010 further affirmed this commitment internationally, pledging to take a lead role in the development of ambitious policies and support mechanisms to bring about the low-carbon future.

Following these commitments the undersigned regional governments:

- **Support** EU initiatives by the European Commission, the European Parliament, EU member states, actors of the civil society and the private sector to continue to lead on climate change action;
- **Reiterate** the 2010 Paris Declaration to see the EU continuing to lead towards an ambitious international agreement on climate change and therefore.
- **Call on European leaders to increase the EU GHG emissions reduction target for 2020 to 30%.**
- **Highlight** the immense potential that energy savings, renewable energy and other environmentally sound technologies hold for regional economic development and the creation of millions of jobs all over Europe
- **Stress** the need to invest now for tomorrow's technology and infrastructure to avoid high carbon "lock in" and the financial risk of needing to engineer a rapid shift away from such stranded assets
- **Acknowledge** the need for adequate policies to increase European energy security and maintain its leadership and competitiveness in the sustainable global low carbon economy.
- **Invite** the EU to rapidly develop its own Low Carbon Economy Strategy, based on the Roadmap 2050. Without continued leadership, the EU could be left behind in the clean technology race as the US, China and other industrialised countries and emerging economies are making large-scale investments in this area.
- **Urge** the Commission to make binding energy savings targets a top priority. Energy saving efforts can extend limited resources and help reduce emissions at the lowest possible cost; they will help create thousands of new jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign fossil energy sources;



- **Suggest** the development of a system to “climate proof” projects that are financed by the European Union. Climate change and energy must indeed be truly at the heart of the “EU 2020 Strategy” in the near future world of high energy prices, carbon and other ecological constraints .
- **Will pay full attention to** the EU budget review process. The debate about the next financial perspectives must reflect the Union’s challenge of transforming the present economic model into one that is focused on low carbon development, ensuring ecological sustainability ;
- **Call for** a strong commitment on EU regional policy that provides the adequate means to implement effective regional adaptation and mitigation actions within their territories. Regional governments are essential when it comes to implementing EU climate change policy. If genuinely empowered and resourced they have the potential to ensure that ambitious targets for the reduction of GHG emissions are met;

This call is being coordinated by The Climate Group on behalf of its States and Regions Alliance. Only the Governments mentioned are supporting this call. This statement does not necessarily reflect the position of all members of The Climate Group.

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### References:

- Montreal Declaration of the Federated States and Regional Governments on Climate Change (2005)
- Copenhagen Statement of Federated States and Regional Governments to the UNFCCC (2009)
- Paris-Ile-de-France Statement of Regional Governments to the EU on the road to COP16 and a low carbon economy (March 2010)
- Cancun Statement of Federated States and Regional Government on low-carbon and climate resilient development (December 2010)