Memorandum to the Polish EU Presidency

Between July and December 2011 Poland will hold the Presidency of the EU Council. This constitutes for Poland an opportunity to show it takes its responsibility for current and future generations seriously. Ambitious climate and environment, energy and resource efficiency policies are necessary to build up Europe for the 21st century. Strong energy and climate legislation can significantly contribute to the development of a modern and resilient economy: independent from fossil fuel price volatility, and more competitive thanks to significant cost savings from reduced oil and gas imports and investments in new and resource-efficient infrastructure, services and products.

The Polish Climate Coalition urges the Polish government to promote the following objectives during its EU Presidency:

1. Strengthen EU energy security through promotion of renewable energy and energy savings.
2. Ensure that funds under the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2013 – 2020) will support efficient and sustainable economic development.
3. Raise the EU climate protection target from 20 percent to 30 percent emission reductions by 2020.
4. Make the existing EU 20 percent energy savings 2020 target legally binding.
5. Develop an ambitious EU position for the COP 17 climate summit in Durban.

EU energy security – promotion of renewable energy and energy savings

Strengthening the EU external energy policy is one of the Polish Presidency’s official priorities. Although the Polish proposals are aiming to minimise the risk of fuel shortage, their focus is merely on strengthening the cooperation between the EU Member States and diversification of energy sources that alone will not diminish the EU’s dependency on fossil fuels and their price volatility. The opportunity of reducing total fossil fuel imports by enhancing investments in energy savings and renewable energy technologies is overlooked. Moreover, gas, oil and coal mining in the countries exporting fossil fuels to the EU is still often related to social and local environmental problems as well as human and labour rights violations. The only way to ensure EU energy security and independence from rising fossil fuel prices is to base the EU economy

---

1 Domestically.
on renewable energy sources and decentralised, flexible and efficient energy system. Such a transformation should be supported during the Polish EU Presidency by policies aiming for the modernisation of existing transmission grids and development of smart and interconnected electricity grids.

**EU funds supporting efficient and sustainable economic development**

The next EU financial perspective should support efficient and sustainable economy development based on renewable energy sources. Funding for climate change mitigation and energy infrastructure, necessary to provide fully renewable energy supply, should be prioritised under the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2013 – 2020). Environment and climate impacts, as well as rational use of natural resources, should be taken into account while assessing projects financed under the EU’s Cohesion Policy. Moreover, funds for innovation, research or education should support the transformation to a sustainable low-carbon economy. A system should be developed for the verification of programmes and projects’ contribution to climate mitigation, biodiversity protection and effective resource use. The regulations managing allocation of funds under the EU budget, especially EU Cohesion Policy, should guarantee involvement of a variety of social partners, including non-governmental organisations, in the decision-making processes on future spending.

**Raise the EU climate protection target from 20 percent to 30 percent by 2020**

Stepping up the EU climate protection target is necessary to boost investments in resource-efficient infrastructure, services and products; spur the creation of hundreds of thousands of new jobs; strengthen Europe’s energy security and deliver substantial cost savings from reduced oil and gas imports. Moreover enhanced climate action would bring significant positive effects on the public health of Europe’s citizens due to improved air quality. The move to a 30 percent domestic target should be seen as a step towards the EU emission reduction target consistent with keeping global average temperature increase in line with the most up to date scientific recommendations. The distribution of additional efforts should take under consideration emission reduction potential as well as economic conditions of the respective countries. Effective finance mechanisms should be developed to support climate action in new EU Member States with a significant untapped emission reduction potential and limited financial resource.

**Make the existing EU 20 percent energy savings 2020 target legally binding**

The existing political commitment to achieve 20 percent energy savings by 2020 should be turned into a legally binding target. It is necessary to enable the development of a more energy efficient economy. Energy efficiency reduces energy bills and creates new jobs for example through buildings refurbishment and insulation, or the correct installation of better appliances. Furthermore energy savings increases Europe’s global competitiveness and security by reducing demand for electricity produced from the fossil fuels imported from outside the EU. At

---

2 CAN-Europe calls on the EU to commit more than 40% emission reduction by 2020 below 1990 level. Several organisations within the CAN-Europe demand that 40% cuts should be achieved entirely domestically.
the same time energy conservation is the cheapest, simplest and the most effective way to mitigate climate change. Therefore it is necessary to ensure that the incentives, measures, and policy instruments supporting energy efficiency will be put in place and implemented on the Member States level, in a comprehensive manner engaging transport, spatial planning and energy policies.

An ambitious EU position for the COP 17 climate summit in Durban

At the COP 17 Climate Summit in Durban (South Africa) the EU must strongly support the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol after 2012. It is necessary for the EU to increase its domestic emission reduction target to 30% prior to the summit. Furthermore the EU has to ensure that unsolved issues, such as the existing surplus of Assigned Amount Units (AAUs) and inconsistencies in calculating emissions from land use, land use changes and forestry (LULUCF), will be addressed along the way, ensuring environmental integrity of the future climate regime. Moreover, the EU needs to clarify the sources of finance to provide its fair share of new and additional public funding (e.g. tax on marine and aviation bunker fuels, tax on financial transactions, revenues from the international emission trading) adequate for developing countries mitigation and adaptation needs.

Presidency's cooperation with non-governmental organisations

We call on the Polish EU Presidency to actively cooperate with civil society organisations, providing support to their involvement and activities. NGOs should be able to provide up-to-date information about plans and works to the Polish Presidency, which will guarantee their transparency and enhance understanding.

The Climate Coalition is an association of 21 Polish organisations working on climate and energy issues. Its mission is joint action to prevent human-induced climate change, for the benefit of humanity and environment. More information available on the website: http://koalicjaklimatyczna.org/lang/ang/