

Climate change conference: COP 22 in Marrakesh

In preparation for the COP 22 climate change conference, which will take place in Marrakesh from 7-18 November 2016, the European Parliament has tabled questions to the European Commission and to the Council. The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) adopted a report on COP 22 which is also due to be discussed during the October I plenary session.

Background

The 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the [Paris Agreement](#) for global climate action in December 2015. The objective of the agreement is to maintain the increase in global temperatures well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, whilst making efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees. The agreement aims to ensure global greenhouse gas emissions peak as soon as possible, and to balance emissions and removals of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century.

The Paris Agreement requires all parties to take action. Over 180 parties have submitted their [intended nationally determined contributions](#) (INDC), outlining their plans to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. The Paris Agreement and COP 21 decisions provide for a review of these pledges in 2018, and every five years thereafter. COP 21 affirmed the existing goal of mobilising climate finance of at least US\$100 billion per year by 2020 from 'a wide variety of sources' for developing countries, and commits to setting a higher collective quantified goal for the period after 2025.

The [provisional agenda](#) for the 22nd Conference of the Parties ([COP 22](#)) includes a number of tasks to prepare for the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. In addition, the COP may work on climate finance, transfer of technology, capacity-building, and mechanisms for addressing climate-related loss and damage.

Ratification and entry into force of the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement will enter into force 30 days after at least 55 parties representing at least 55% of global emissions have ratified it. As of 22 September 2016, the agreement has been ratified by 60 parties, representing almost 48% of emissions, including China and the United States as the largest emitters. EU environment ministers will meet on 30 September 2016 to consider accelerating the ratification by the EU. On 8 September 2016, the ENVI Committee adopted a [recommendation](#) that Parliament give its consent to the [proposed](#) ratification. If the EU concludes its ratification in early October, the Paris Agreement could enter into force before COP 22.

The Committee of the Regions is expected to adopt its opinion entitled "Delivering the global climate agreement – a territorial approach to COP 22 in Marrakesh" at its 119th plenary session in October 2016. Its [draft opinion](#) calls for multi-level governance and better integration of regions and cities within the UNFCCC.

The Environment Council is expected to adopt conclusions on COP 22 on 30 September 2016, and the ECOFIN Council on 11 October 2016.

Parliament's question for oral answer and draft resolution

Oral questions ([O-000103/2016](#) and [O-000104/2016](#)) with debate are scheduled for the October I plenary session. The oral questions ask what action the Council and Commission respectively are taking to ensure that COP 22 makes progress in advancing on the key elements of the Paris Agreement, shaping the 2018 review of national pledges, and boosting the provision of climate finance in order to achieve the US\$100 billion goal.

On 8 September 2016, the ENVI Committee adopted a detailed [draft resolution](#) on COP 22. It notes that the current INDCs are not sufficiently ambitious for meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement and urges developed countries, especially the EU Member States, to reduce their emissions below the current pledges. The plenary vote is scheduled for the October I session.

