

## COP 23 climate change conference in Bonn

The COP 23 climate change conference, presided by Fiji, will take place in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017. The programme is focussed on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In preparation of COP 23, the European Parliament has tabled questions to the European Commission and the Council. The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety has adopted a motion for a resolution on COP 23 which is due to be voted during the October I plenary session.

### Background

The 23rd Conference of the Parties ([COP 23](#)) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be focussed on the implementation of the [Paris Agreement](#) that was concluded in December 2015 and entered into force in November 2016. The conference will develop guidelines on how the provisions of the Paris Agreement will be implemented across a wide range of issues, including transparency, adaptation, emission reductions, provision of finance, capacity-building and technology. It will also prepare the facilitative dialogue which will be held in 2018, with the aim of assessing the adequacy of the nationally determined contributions (national action plans) and raising their ambition in order to meet the targets of the agreement. The 2016 [emissions gap report](#) found that the nationally determined contributions submitted by the parties to the Paris Agreement are not sufficiently ambitious to keep global warming below the agreed 1.5 to 2 degrees. The announced withdrawal of the United States of America, the world's second-largest emitter, adds further uncertainty to the prospects of achieving the targets.

**United States withdrawal from Paris Agreement.** In August 2017, the United States of America [communicated](#) its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement at the earliest date possible (November 2020) to the United Nations. However, the USA is not withdrawing from the UNFCCC, and would be open to re-engage in the Paris Agreement under terms that are more favourable to the USA. The USA will continue to take part in international climate change negotiations, including COP 23.

### Role of the European Union and European Parliament

The European Union has played a key role in the adoption and ratification of the Paris Agreement. It is now in the process of overhauling its climate and energy policy in line with its international commitments under the Paris Agreement. The European Parliament has repeatedly called for greater ambition on emission reductions and climate finance, and every year a parliamentary delegation participates in UN climate conferences.

### European Parliament

Two oral questions with debate are scheduled for the October I plenary session. They ask what action the Council and Commission, respectively, are taking to ensure that COP 23 advances on the key implementing rules of the Paris Agreement, clarifies and shapes the design of the 2018 facilitative dialogue, and scales up the mobilisation of climate finance. On 7 September 2017, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) adopted a motion for a resolution calling for reinforced climate action under the Paris Agreement, European leadership in defence of the agreement, effective provision of climate finance and protection of European industry against unfair competition from less ambitious regions. It urges the Commission to prepare a mid-century zero emissions strategy for the EU, to be delivered in 2018. Parliament is due to debate and vote on the motion during its October I session.

Oral questions: [B8-0329/2017](#) and [B8-0330/2017](#). Motion for a resolution: [2017/2620\(RSP\)](#). Committee responsible: ENVI; Rapporteurs: Adina-Ioana Vălean (EPP, Romania), Peter Liese (EPP, Germany), Gilles Pargneaux (S&D, France), Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE, The Netherlands), Estefanía Torres Martínez (GUE/NGL, Spain), Marco Affronte (Greens/EFA, Italy), Piernicola Pedicini (EFDD, Italy).

