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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2013/0376(NLE)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the joint fulfilment of commitments thereunder
(2013/0376(NLE))

Rapporteur: Indrek Tarand

PA_NonLeg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The commitment undertaken by the European Union, its Member States and Iceland under the 'Doha Amendment', to limit their average annual greenhouse gas emissions in the years 2013 to 2020 to 80 % of their base year emissions, is considered insufficient in view of the growing consensus on human-caused global warming.

This rapporteur notes that the United States has never ratified the Kyoto Protocol, Canada is no longer a Party and Japan, New Zealand and the Russian Federation, have not assumed a second commitment period target. In order to build trust in the international negotiations between developed and developing countries it is therefore crucial that the EU lives up to its commitments and ensures continuity of binding international legal framework.

Notwithstanding the above, the Doha Amendment presents positive elements, such as the automatic adjustment of a Party's target to prevent an increase in its emissions beyond its average past emissions and the fact that the process for increasing ambition becomes much easier. The consensus of Parties to the Convention to adopt an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties no later than 2015, which should come into effect and be implemented from 2020, is also positive.

The rapporteur believes that climate diplomacy, including the security aspect of climate, should be an integral part of the EU foreign policy and that the commitment to the Doha amendment should be raised among the priorities at bilateral meetings with third countries and in particular in the framework of all the summits with EU strategic partners that have not yet assumed it.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament gives its consent.