



**Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée Parlementaire Euro-Latino Américaine
Asamblea Parlamentaria Euro-Latinoamericana
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EURO-LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**Committee on Social Affairs, Human Exchanges, Environment, Education
and Culture**

5 October 2009

PROVISIONAL

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

Tackling climate change challenges together: for an EU-LAC coordinated strategy in the framework of the UNFCCC negotiations

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Tackling climate change challenges together: for an EU-LAC coordinated strategy in the framework of the UNFCCC negotiations

The Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly,

- having regard to the declarations made at the five summits of Heads of State and Government of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, held respectively in Río de Janeiro (28-29 June 1999), Madrid (17-18 May 2002), Guadalajara (28-29 May 2004), Vienna (11-13 May 2006) and Lima (15-17 May 2008),
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution on climate change of 14 February 2007,
 - having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992) and its Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change (11 December 1997),
 - having regard to the Thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 13) in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Third Conference of the Parties or Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 3), held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 15 December 2007,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), published in Valencia, Spain, on 17 November 2007, and other studies commissioned by national governments or conducted by other United Nations bodies,
 - having regard to the EU Climate and Energy Package approved by the European Parliament and the Council in December 2008,
 - having regard to Article 16 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the final result of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should lay the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference [i.e. generated by human beings] with the climate system,
- B. whereas according to an independent study, climate change causes more than 300, 000 deaths every year; whereas developing countries account for nearly 99 % of these deaths and 98 % of the people seriously affected; whereas 90 % of economic losses due to climate change are suffered by developing countries,¹
- C. whereas some Latin American countries such as Honduras and Peru have been ranked among the three most vulnerable countries to climate change in the world, along with Bangladesh,
1. Underlines that climate change mitigation is one of the most relevant issues, if not the most important one, for mankind and that it is crucial for the future of the planet, the natural world and humankind to achieve substantial results in ongoing international negotiations;
 2. Believes that the EU-LAC Bi-regional Strategic Partnership and all its members should make climate change mitigation a top priority in their political agenda to avoid a major

¹ Human Impact Report: Climate Change — The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis (Published by the Global Humanitarian Forum — Geneva 2009)

climate catastrophe during the current century;

3. Considers that national and regional parliamentarians should be involved in the process; believes that Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (Euro-Lat) members commit themselves to concentrating their efforts on a successful outcome of the international negotiations and strict implementation of the decisions;
4. Rejects the idea of Malthusianism and Neo-Malthusianism and emphasises that the solution lies in investment in energy-efficiency, renewable-energy and a change in human behaviour;
5. Stresses that the financial and economic crisis should not be used as an excuse for failing to take action to mitigate climate change, since non-action and the failure of international negotiation would lead to a much more intensive and long-lasting crisis - not only economic. Believes, on the contrary, that the economic crises should be used as a challenge to invest in energy-efficiency, renewable-energy and modern technology and so create jobs, sustainable growth and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
6. Highlights that the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has estimated that emissions should decline before 2015 and be further reduced to less than 50 - 85% of today's emissions by 2050¹;
7. Stresses that the IPCC concluded that emissions from industrialised countries must be reduced by 25-40% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels, and by 80-95% by 2050, whilst there must be a substantial deviation from baseline in Latin America, Middle East and Centrally Planned Asia²;
8. Underlines that the 2020 target is of crucial importance because if emissions increase too much climate 'tipping points' could be reached so that future generations would not be able to control climate change no matter how hard they try;
9. Welcomes the tremendous efforts made by some Latin American countries in the fight against climate change. In particular, welcomes the example set by Costa Rica's commitment to cut drastically CO2 emissions in order to be the first developing country to become carbon neutral by 2021, the example set by Mexico's recent commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 50 % below 2002 levels by 2050, as well as the efforts made by the Government of Brazil, embodied in the December 2008 National Plan on Climate Change, aimed at further reducing per capita emissions, eliminating the net loss of forest cover in Brazil by 2015;
10. Stresses that the EU Climate and Energy Package, which includes the option to go for 30% reduction target compared to 1990 if other countries make comparable efforts, is still the most ambitious proposal by industrialised countries;
11. Invites other parties under UNFCCC, and especially the United States, India, China and Russia, to follow the example of Costa Rica, Mexico, Brazil and the EU;
12. Stresses that even though an agreement on climate change mitigation is the most important and most challenging task, the international agreement must include the appropriate transfer of financial resources from industrialized and emerging countries, especially to LDCs and small-island states for mitigation and adaptation efforts;

¹ Contribution of Working Group III to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

² Ibid

13. Welcomes therefore the concrete proposals made by Mexico, Norway, Denmark and the European Commission to generate the necessary funding;
14. Stresses that both international aviation and shipping must be part of the international agreement under UNFCCC. The agreement should include the same binding reduction targets as for industrialized countries and a substantial amount of the allowances should be distributed by auction, thus generating additional funds for climate change mitigation and adaptation, especially in LDCs and small-island states;
15. Recommends that the distribution of the financial resources under UNFCCC should benefit from the existing principles and guidance in development cooperation, such as good governance. In particular, democratic scrutiny over financial transfers is of crucial importance;
16. Believes that a crucial part of the international agreement should be to stop deforestation globally by 2020 and to stop the illegal logging of wood;
17. Calls for the EU-LAC Bi-regional Strategic Partnership to serve as a framework for negotiations leading to an integrated global carbon market for emission trading. The first step should be the establishment of an EU-Latin American Emission Trading Scheme - if possible including the United States of America;
18. Proposes that the EU-LAC Bi-regional Strategic Partnership should work to create mutual standards for biofuel production as well as the quality certificate for the product. Joint ventures between European Import and Latin American and Caribbean Export should be encouraged. Governments should be supported in the foundation of biofuel policies and priority should be given to the protection of workers, indigenous people, human rights and wellbeing in developing countries;
19. Recommends that the EU-LAC Bi-regional Strategic Partnership should work for the process of harmonising all other multilateral agreements with the international agreement on Climate Change reached in Copenhagen in December 2009;

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20. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, and to the parliaments of the Member States of the European Union and all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin American Parliament, the Central American Parliament, the Andean Parliament and the Mercosur Parliament, the Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, Caricom, the Secretariat of the Andean Community, the Committee of Permanent Representatives of Mercosur and the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System and the UNFCCC Secretariat.