



## GUE/NGL members of the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety



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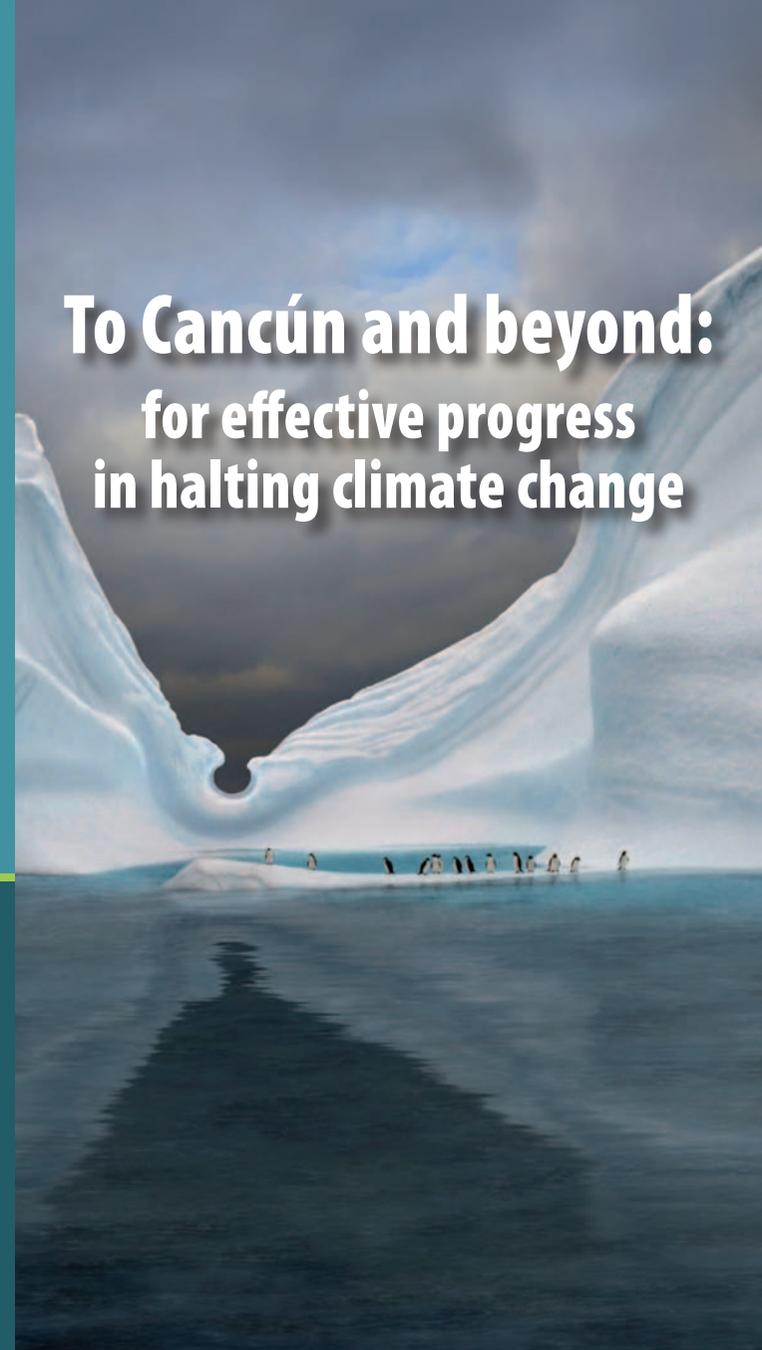


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# To Cancún and beyond: for effective progress in halting climate change



## EU leadership

The EU should demonstrate real political leadership in the global climate change negotiations. This must be backed up by consistent domestic action. Re-engaging major emitters with the climate process and in the post-2012 regime should be a priority, without diminishing the level of ambition. The EU should contribute to an institutional architecture that is inclusive, transparent, equitable and has a balanced representation between developed and developing countries where, among others, the International Forum of Indigenous People becomes a key Party in the COP 16 negotiations.

## Context for Cancún

The first round of the Kyoto Protocol on global warming ends in 2012, yet COP 15 in Copenhagen failed to reach shared objectives and even a formal agreement.

What are still the key elements of a new global deal? What needs to be urgently agreed in Cancún to secure an ambitious post-2012 global climate agreement?

The future regime should be equitable, based on historical responsibility and on the basis of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities, ensuring a wider and democratic participation in decision making. Furthermore, it should not rely on a market-based approach but rather on a normative approach.



The **GUE/NGL** will oppose proposals based on the lowest common denominator. The global economic crisis cannot and must not be used as an excuse for inaction or for denying climate justice. On the contrary, developing a low-carbon economy is a fundamental part of a path out of the present crisis.

A more sustainable path for economic development is a goal, not a burden. We must alter the patterns that got us into the present mess. Green innovation can be the basis of transforming industry for a sustainable growth, promoting environment-friendly technologies, reducing energy dependency and securing employment and social and economic cohesion in both developed and developing countries.

## Urgent action needed

Where situations are dramatic, urgent measures should be taken:

- Early action will avoid further costs of climate change and promote new job creation; delaying action will have severe consequences for nations, peoples and ecosystems, as underlined in the Conference on Biodiversity in Nagoya.
- An even more than 40% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020 and at least a 80%-95% reduction by 2050 compared to 1990 levels is necessary to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- Effective domestic reductions should be pursued, not relying on market instruments or on flexibility mechanisms.
- Energy efficiency, energy saving and renewable energies are the best bases for environmental and economic benefits. The EU 'indicative' target of 20% greater energy efficiency by 2020 must be replaced by a mandatory target.
- A global agreement on the treatment of the international aviation and shipping sector emissions needs to be included in the Cancún agreement.

## Climate justice

The developed world must allow the developing world a sustainable path to development. The developing world must not pay for our mistakes.

In addition to adopting ambitious mitigation targets, the developed world must:

- Support the poorest nations and most vulnerable communities to cope with increasing climate change damage, as an adaptive capacity is connected to social and economic development ensuring growth and eradication of poverty.
- Assist developing countries in their deployment of sustainable and efficient technologies by means of adequate financial, technical and technological capacity-building support without binding them to acquire expensive patents.
- Promote innovative and additional sources of finance including international financial transaction taxes and finance from international aviation and shipping.
- Performance-based incentives for avoided deforestation need to be part of the future climate change regime. Robust rules of land use, land use change, conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stock in developing countries through the REDD+ programme should be endorsed in Cancún.
- Full and transparent provision of climate financing will be a key factor as a new and additional contribution over and above existing ODA budgets, with a balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation.