



Expert Roundtable

"The role and strategic positioning of the EU in climate change negotiations"

Tuesday, 9th of April 2013

08.30 h to 14.00 h

Venue

Brot für die Welt, European Office
Rue Joseph II, 166, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

(Conference language: English)

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In the European Union, both the mitigation of climate change, i.e. the reduction of GHG emissions and the increase of energy efficiency, as well as adaptation measures, i.e. the actions taken to help the most vulnerable people and ecosystems cope with changing climate conditions, form an important element of the EU's policies. The EU's legislative competence in the area of environmental standards is an important means for an EU-wide response towards climate change and the protection of the environment. Another important role for the European Union concerns its involvement in the so called Climate Summits which take place on a yearly basis and in which the EU as well as Germany and other Member States advocate for a binding commitment on a country level for the reduction of GHG emissions. The summit in Durban in 2011 (COP17) was considered successful in terms of the creation of a fruitful cooperation between groups of developing countries and the EU and its Member States in order to push for a global climate regime. Known as the Durban Platform, the deal commits the world to negotiating a new climate treaty by 2015 which would come into force in 2020. However, Durban left the open question of a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol was scheduled to end on 31. December 2012 and the 2012 summit in Doha (COP18) had the task to further advance the stuck negotiations with a 2nd commitment period from 2013-2020 in order to close the gap.

Moreover, the drop-out of countries such as Canada, New Zealand, Japan and Russia from the second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol triggered a negative momentum which already in the run up to Doha lowered the overall expectations of stakeholders. Unfortunately and not least influenced by other external factors such as the financial crisis in Europe, the leadership change in China and the elections in the US, those worst case expectations were fulfilled. Even though in Doha a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol was adopted, the progress on the successor agreement which already should be adopted in 2015 remained limited.

The EU is an important player in these negotiations. And one of the important countries within the EU is Germany, which has both opted for a turnaround in its energy policy and a progressive withdrawal from nuclear power. However, in the past neither Germany nor the EU have been powerful enough on their own to be a driving-force for a substantial alteration of the compromising character of climate change negotiations. Having already had a successful alliance of like-minded partners during the climate summit in Durban, it came therefore as surprise that in Doha, the alliance between the EU and country groupings such as the Least Developed Countries and the Alliance Of Small Island States (AOSIS) was not continued. In this sense, observers of the process consider COP18 as a backdrop. Now, the question has emerged again, where the EU can find strategic partners in order to progress with their own ambitious policy objectives beyond Europe. What role could and should Europe play ahead and during the next summit taking place in Poland, one of its Member States.

Besides of discussions around the already developing Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, the fundamental question of the Doha summit has been how to address risks of "loss and damage" related to extreme weather events. The importance attributed to this central question of disaster risk management on the agenda, also implies the failure of mitigation and adaptation policies. It tries to apply a realistic approach on how to coordinate humanitarian aid, development assistance and migration policies in the best way and in benefit of populations concerned.

The expert roundtable organized jointly by Brot für die Welt and the Multinational Development Policy Dialogue of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung attempts to bring together stakeholders from different sides of the negotiating table in an informal setting in order to discuss how to get real progress towards a common position on the reduction of GHG emissions and the improvement of resilience of the concerned populations.

The discussion will take place under Chatham House Rules.

Draft Programme

- 08:30** **Registration of participants**
- 08:45** **Welcome note**
- 09:00** **From Copenhagen to Warsaw – where do we stand?
A civil society perspective**
- 09:20** **After Durban and Post-Doha – has the EU jeopardised its relations
with developing countries?**
- 10:00** **Discussion**
- 10:20** **Break**
- 10:40** **Potential of the political leverage of the EU until 2015: what are the
preconditions for success in COP19?**
- 11:30** **Discussion**
- 11:40** **Short Break**
- 12:00** **Loss and Damage– financial and political needs**
- 12:40** **Discussion**
- 13:15** **Concluding remarks, **Andrea E. Ostheimer de Sosa****
- 13:30 Lunch