

Wednesday 25th February 2016

Dear Minister,

The Paris Agreement represents the beginning of the global transition away from fossil fuels and towards 100% renewable energy in the second half of the century. All nations have agreed to join their efforts to raise ambition in order to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C by 2050.

At the Environment Council on 4th March, you will assess how the Paris Agreement will impact EU policies. Health Care Without Harm Europe urges you to keep up the momentum created in Paris and to act on the agreed targets by adopting policy measures that will pave the way to limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2050. Having EU targets in place would allow all sectors of the economy to tackle climate change, and in particular the healthcare sector, which is already making great progress in its efforts to reduce its CO² emissions and eventually become an emissions-free sector.

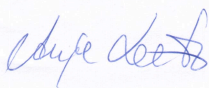
In parallel to COP21, healthcare leaders from around the world came together to address climate change. They gathered in Paris at a closed-door meeting¹ to share experiences, strategies, and discuss ways to scale-up healthcare commitment to reduce CO² emissions.

The EU must continue leading the global flight to mitigate climate change and set a positive example in the global effort to reduce GHG emissions. This is why we expect to see the following requirements clearly indicated in the Environment Council's Conclusions:

1. *Strengthening of the long-term goals (Paris Agreement, articles 2(a) and 4.1)*
Achieving the 1.5°C target will require a review of all EU climate and energy policies. The goal to reduce EU domestic emissions by 80% by 2050 is not consistent with the Paris Agreement and must be changed. Most European sectors will have to achieve zero-emissions in the next few decades if the EU as a whole is to achieve zero-emissions in the second half of the century. For this to happen, the EU must put in place the adequate policies that include phasing out the use of coal, gas and oil.
2. *Revision of current inadequate climate targets (INDCs) (Paris Decision, paragraphs 17-24)*
The existing INDCs, which were submitted by countries in the lead-up to COP21 would lead to a global temperature increase of 3°C, far above the 2°C target and the 1.5°C ambition outlined in the Paris Agreement. In order for EU climate and energy policies to align with the Paris Agreement, the EU's 2030 targets must be raised. The EU should take the opportunity to increase its targets within the 2030 Climate and Energy Package legislative process.
3. *Shifting of financial flows (Paris Agreement, article 2(c))*
The EU must make all financial flows consistent with low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient developments. In order to favour divestment from fossil fuels, the EU must end fossil fuel subsidies and the allocation of public finance for high-carbon infrastructure through European development banks.

Finally, we call on the EU Ministers to adopt adequate policies that will make the EU a leader in the world by moving towards a net zero-emissions economy. This will pave the way for the healthcare sector to demonstrate its leadership in mitigating climate change and exerting climate resiliency.

Yours Sincerely,



Executive Director Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe

¹ <https://noharm-global.org/articles/news/global/cop21-hospitals-worldwide-join-together-fight-against-climate-change>