



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Alex Wilks
Campaign Director
Avaaz.org

The Rt Hon Edward Davey MP
Secretary of State

Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

www.gov.uk/decc

Dear Alex Wilks,

12 November 2014

AVAAZ Campaign Letter on the EU Climate Deal

I am writing in response to a number of emails we have received as a result of the Avaaz Campaign calling for strong climate change action at the October European Council.

As you know, on 24 October the European Council reached a historic agreement on a framework of climate and energy policies for 2030. This included a headline target for domestic EU greenhouse gas emissions reductions of at least 40%. The UK fought hard for this outcome, which ensures that the EU has kept open the possibility of increasing its climate ambition and puts the EU in the best possible position to fight for an ambitious global climate deal in Paris next year.

I am also pleased with the other key elements of the package. Ambitious but flexible, the measures we agreed will cut carbon emissions whilst giving the UK and other Member States the flexibility to decide how they will decarbonise at least cost to consumers. The package will also improve energy security by reducing the EU's reliance on imported energy.

I agree with you on the importance of energy efficiency in our transition to a low-carbon economy. Long term investment in energy efficiency technologies can drive economic growth and innovation, reduce costs for businesses and households and enhance security of supply. Energy efficiency can also play an important role in reducing dependence on foreign imports.

The energy efficiency target (27%) agreed by the Council in the 2030 framework maintains Member State flexibility and is, I believe, set at the right level. The Commission's analysis demonstrated a 25% energy efficiency target is consistent with delivering the GHG target cost-effectively, but that a 27% target can be delivered without significant additional EU system costs. As a result, the package will deliver a 12% reduction in EU gas imports, while remaining consistent with the cost-effective pathway.

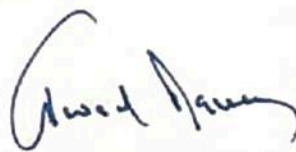
The UK continues to support and lead on energy efficiency. The ambitious policy package we have put in place – which is set out in our Energy Efficiency Strategy – is projected to deliver a level of energy savings that will take us beyond the existing EU energy saving targets for 2020. The UK's carbon budgets will also drive significant investment in energy efficiency domestically and the targets in the 2030 framework should promote further energy efficiency investment across the EU. The UK Government looks forward to working with the European Commission as it begins the process of developing new energy efficiency proposals, building on the existing EU legislative framework, in order to drive progress towards meeting the target.

We recognise that a continued reliance on coal-fired energy production would lead to higher levels of emissions over the coming decades. Of all fossil fuel lending, coal is the most concerning from a climate perspective. That is why the UK Government announced at the COP19 climate meeting in Warsaw last year, to end support for public financing of new coal-fired power plants overseas, except in rare circumstances. We have also co-sponsored a proposal with the US government to introduce an emissions performance standard for new power plants within the OECD rules on export credit support, at a level which would effectively rule out unabated coal. The EU 2030 package also contains a number of targeted measures designed to support low income Member States that are currently reliant on coal for electricity generation in their transition towards a cleaner and more diverse energy mix.

It is vital that we do not lose momentum following agreement of the EU 2030 framework, and we are now calling on our international partners to come forward with equally ambitious contributions to the global climate agreement. I look forward to your continued engagement and support.

We will be publishing our response to this campaign on the DECC website and we are happy for you to share this response via your website also.

Yours,



EDWARD DAVEY