

Submission by Hungary and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

This submission is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

Budapest, 16 March 2011

Subject: Views on the issues referred to in paragraph 93 of Decision 1/CP.16 – Economic and social consequences of response measures

Introduction

1. In paragraph 94 of Decision 1/CP.16, Parties were invited to submit to the secretariat, by 28 March 2011, their views (1) on convening a forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures at the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions of the SBI and the SBSTA, (2) on the development of a work programme under the subsidiary bodies and (3) on modalities for the operationalisation of a work programme and a possible forum on response measures, as outlined in paragraph 93 of that decision. The EU welcomes this opportunity to present its views on this topic.

General remarks

2. There is a general consensus on the need to undertake a global transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting economy in order to tackle climate change. This transition presents a major opportunity for all countries to follow a clean development path and implement sustainable policies while addressing climate change. This transition will have important co-benefits for health, employment and economic development. At the same time, the EU recognises that some countries may have concerns over challenges posed to their economies and societies by such a transition.
3. The EU recognises that a better understanding of the positive and negative impacts of the implementation of response measures to combat climate change is an important part of addressing these concerns.

On convening a forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures at the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions of the SBI and the SBSTA

4. The EU looks forward to participating in a forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures to be convened at the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions of the SBI and the SBSTA.
5. We would suggest that the forum be held in a workshop format. Response measures/potential consequences is currently discussed under a number of agenda items and the EU believes that we should use this forum to take into account all considerations of the issue. This would allow the forum to fulfil the role of a central place of exchange of views and information on the topic of response measures/potential consequences, whilst streamlining the agenda items.
6. To allow for a broad involvement of stakeholders, the EU would also propose that such a forum be open to all observer organisations.
7. Paragraph 92 of decision 1/CP.16 recognises the need for Parties to take into consideration the impacts of response measures and highlights the need for enhanced information exchange, taking into account the need for information from those affected, and evidence of actual impacts, and of both positive and negative effects and to consider how existing channels, such as national communications could be improved and built upon.
8. The provision of the forum at the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions of the SBI and the SBSTA should allow for discussions on the importance of information exchange and how to address the information needed as outlined in paragraph 7 above.

On the development of a work programme under the subsidiary bodies

9. The EU is of the view that considerations on the need for, and value of, a work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures should be preceded by an open discussion and a thoughtful analysis of the work and activities that are ongoing under the various agenda items under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.
10. During the last year, discussions on the issue of response measures/potential consequences took place under the SBI (1/CP.10), under the SBI and the SBSTA (joint contact group on Articles 2.3 and 3.14 of the Kyoto-Protocol), under the AWG-LCA (economic and social consequences of response measures) and under the AWG-KP (potential consequences). In Cancún, conclusions FCCC/SBI/2010/L.23 and FCCC/SBSTA/2010/L.16 (joint contact group under Articles 2.3 and 3.14 of the Kyoto Protocol) and FCCC/SBI/2010/L.34/Rev.1 (1/CP.10) mandated workshops on the issue of response measures/potential consequences.
11. In addition to this work, the EU and other Annex I Parties have reported on the impact of the implementation of response measures in their National Inventory Reports and/or their fifth National Communications. Non-Annex I Parties have been invited to report on actual impacts experienced by the implementation of response measures in their National Communications and/or in supplementary information.
12. All of the elements outlined in paragraphs 10 and 11, above, are already in place. However, the EU recognises that by bringing these different strands together, by strengthening existing channels and institutions and by bringing existing processes together in one central place, the issue of response measures/potential consequences may be better addressed in the future.
13. The EU proposes that the discussions on the development of a work programme should focus on identifying
 - what issues concerning response measures/potential consequences are already being addressed by current channels, institutions and work programmes;
 - what value an additional work programme could have in enhancing the use of existing channels of information; and
 - how an additional work programme would allow for bringing together existing channels and institutions in one central place.

14. Discussions should be guided by the urgent need to combat climate change through a global transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting economy, and by sharing information and best practices for maximising positive and minimising negative impacts of such a necessary transition.
15. The outcomes of the workshops mentioned in paragraph 10, above, could provide useful input to these discussions. Inputs from observer organisations during the forum at the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions of the SBI and the SBSTA could add to this input.

On modalities for the operationalisation of a work programme and a possible forum on response measures

16. The EU is of the view that considerations on the operationalisation of a work programme and a possible forum on response measures should be preceded by an open discussion and a thoughtful analysis of the work and activities that are ongoing under the various agenda items under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.
17. The EU believes that the discussions on the issues outlined in paragraphs 9 to 14, above, should inform the question of whether and how to operationalise a work programme and a possible forum on response measures.

Conclusion

18. The EU looks forward to participating fully in a forum to be held at the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions of the SBI and the SBSTA and hopes that it will be used to facilitate further discussions of this issue.