



European Commission begins COP21 follow-up

Following the Paris Agreement adopted at COP21, scientists working on EU-funded research and representatives from the European Commission met to discuss how the EU can contribute to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5°C. The 1.5°C limit would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, but entail feasibility limits.

IPCC representatives attending the meeting stressed the need for clear, science-based information on the climate impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming to 1.5°C, as well as on the mitigation effort that it would entail. Scientists highlighted relevant existing research results, and possible outcomes emerging from on-going projects.

The discussion was very useful. IPCC co-chairs received inputs for the report on areas of physical and socio-economic impacts of climate change and knowledge gaps, as well as on key methodological challenges.

It was concluded that the production of relevant scientific results based on EU-funded research could provide solid data for the IPCC report.

Next steps

- The Commission will favour the re-orientation of on-going EU-funded projects in order to provide scientific results on 1.5°C global warming impacts and pathways.
- At the next IPCC Session in April in Nairobi, the EU delegation will work for decisions on the future Special Reports that may best provide evidence for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- EU-funded research will explore deep decarbonisation pathways for Europe leading to “balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century”, as set out in the Paris Agreement.

Background

The Paris Agreement aims to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels”. The IPCC was invited to prepare a special report by 2018 on the “impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways”.

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