

## Citizens' summary

# Analysis of options for reducing the EU's greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2020

### WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- To keep global warming below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels, developed countries will have to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% by 2050 compared to 1990.
- The EU has already pledged to **cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 20%** and achieve 20% of its energy supply from renewable sources **by 2020**.
- The EU is prepared to move to a reduction target of **30% by 2020** if certain conditions are met, but no decision has yet been taken on this.

### WHAT IS EUROPE DOING TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?

The EU Commission has analysed the efforts required in the main economic sectors to cut greenhouse emissions by 20-30% by 2020, and the different ways of achieving this, taking into account:

- the results of the UN Conference on Climate Change (Copenhagen, December 2009)
- the present financial and economic crisis
- the greener growth vision at the heart of Europe's economic strategy until 2020.

### WHAT EXACTLY WILL CHANGE?

- The extra cost of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% instead of 20% is put at around €33 billion in 2020 (0.2% of the EU's GDP). The total cost, including achieving the initial 20% reduction and the 20% renewables target, is estimated at €81 billion in 2020.
- Opting for the 30% reduction by 2020 would put the EU on target to reduce emissions by 80-95% in 2050.
- Acting now would avoid the need for more radical and economically-damaging reduction measures later on.
- The EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), covering large-scale emitters such as power stations and industry, would see its emissions reduction target for 2020 increase from 21% below the 2005 level to 34%.
- Sectors not covered by the ETS (e.g. road transport, heating, agriculture and waste) would see their reduction target increase from 10% to 16% below 2005 levels.

### WHAT ARE THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE ANALYSIS?

The 30% target would

- bring more green jobs
- reduce oil and gas import bills
- have a positive impact on air quality
- put the EU on track to reduce emissions by 80-95% in 2050 compared to 1990

### WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

- The EU and individual countries are jointly responsible for limiting their emissions. **Joint EU action can:**
  - **maximise the effectiveness** of measures taken
  - **create economies of scale** so measures cost less and don't disrupt Europe's single market.

- The 27 EU countries can **take a stronger lead together than they could individually** in the *global* fight against climate change and influence our global partners to take more ambitious action.
- Taking further action would give incentives to **strengthen Europe's early investment in green technology** and re-orient our development towards a greener economy.

#### **WHEN IS THIS LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?**

The analysis provides a solid basis for discussion by EU leaders, the European Parliament and other EU institutions.