



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 15.9.2017
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Vouli ton Antiprosopon for its Opinion on climate change, the Paris Agreement and the recent decision by the US Administration to withdraw from this Agreement.

The Commission thanks the Vouli ton Antiprosopon for the confirmation of its adherence and commitment to the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

While the announcement by the US Administration of its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change is regrettable, the world stands firmly behind the Paris Agreement and will continue working with the United States on climate and energy subjects, as confirmed at the recent G20 Summit in Hamburg.

The European Union's response to the United States' announcement of its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement was immediate and unanimous: in the European Council Conclusions of 23 June the Heads of State and Government strongly reaffirmed their commitment to swiftly and fully implement the Agreement, to contribute to the fulfilment of the climate finance goals, and to continue to lead in the fight against climate change.

At the Hamburg G20 Summit, Leaders recognised climate change as one of the common challenges to the global community, on which they will continue to work together building on the rules-based international order. While taking note of the decision of the United States to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, the Leaders of the other G20 members, at the same time, stated that the Paris Agreement is irreversible and reaffirmed their strong commitment to the Agreement and its implementation, and, to this end, agreed to the G20 Hamburg Climate and Energy Action Plan for Growth.

G20 Leaders also agreed that a strong economy and a healthy planet are mutually reinforcing. They recognised the opportunities for innovation, sustainable growth, competitiveness and job creation of increased investment into sustainable energy sources and clean energy technologies and infrastructure.

*Mr Demetris SYLLOURIS
President of the
Vouli ton Antiprosopon
CY – 1402 NICOSIA*

They remain collectively committed to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions through, amongst others, increased innovation on sustainable and clean energies and energy efficiency, and work towards low greenhouse-gas emission energy systems. G20 members agreed to collaborate closely in facilitating well-balanced and economically viable long term strategies in order to transform and enhance our economies and energy systems consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The European Union is strengthening its partnerships and building new alliances in support of the Paris Agreement within G20 and globally. For example, we agreed at the recent EU-China and EU-Japan Summits to strengthen our bilateral cooperation on climate change and clean energy. We also communicated with the authorities of other major economies, with the African Union and with the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States in order to reassure them of our unwavering determination.

The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'F' and 'T' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*