

Brussels, 30 November 2006

**To: Environment Ministers of EU Member States**

**Concerning: Input for EU Environment Council Meeting, 18 December 2006**

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the European Environmental Bureau, I am writing to you to express our views regarding climate change. I encourage you to take our concerns into account during final official-level preparations, and during the meeting itself.

We emphasize the urgency of climate change. Since science demonstrates that in order to not exceed the 2°C objective, global emissions will need to peak in the middle of the next decade and decline thereafter, energetic and timely efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are an environmental imperative. The economic argument is similarly persuasive: the Stern report indicates that the benefits outweigh the costs ten-fold.

We urge Member States to work expeditiously to ensure that there is no gap between commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol, bearing in mind the time required to reach internal EU burden sharing agreements and for ratification.

**We therefore call upon the Council to:**

- Commit to seeking a mandate for negotiations to be agreed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Parties serving as a Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
- Commit to 30% cuts in EU emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020, as publicly supported by France, Germany and the United Kingdom
- Use existing EU third party relations to discuss and promote climate change issues, energy efficiency and renewables sources of energy
- Demonstrate leadership through demonstrable progress in domestic emission reductions
- Insist the Commission propose sectoral renewable energy targets in its January Energy package.

We anticipate the Commission's Green Paper on Post 2012 climate policy and regret that it was not published in time to inform the negotiations at Nairobi.

Yours sincerely,

John Hontelez, Secretary General EEB