

Joint Statement – 3 June 2016

ECRAN High Level Regional Dialogue of the EU, Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates

on the outcomes of the Paris Agreement and its implications for national actions

Joint Statement by the Delegated Representatives of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia and Turkey on combating climate change in the Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates Zagreb, June 3, 2016

The Delegated Representatives from the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia and Turkey – together with representatives of the EU, donor countries, international organisations and NGOs – met in Zagreb to discuss the implications of the Paris Climate Agreement for the region and their countries.

The Delegated Representatives acknowledged that addressing climate change, which threatens the future well-being of the citizens of the region, is a matter of urgency. Climate change is a powerful threat multiplier increasing frequency, magnitude and damage caused by floods, droughts, forest fires, heat waves and other climate related impacts, resulting in ever increasing instability and vulnerability of the countries and regions.

The Delegated Representatives acknowledged that the Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN) has strengthened regional cooperation between the EU Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates on climate action and has assisted their progress in the transposition and implementation of EU climate acquis. The Delegated Representatives also acknowledge and greatly appreciate the support provided by ECRAN to further align key elements of climate acquis with national legislation, as well as in supporting capacity building, particularly in the framework of the international climate agenda, inter alia in promoting and providing technical support for the development of the Intended Nationally determined Contributions (INDCs).

Therefore, the Delegated Representatives welcome the announced follow up to the ECRAN; two regional Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) II climate action projects, which will support implementation of the Paris Agreement as a first step towards a resource efficient, low emissions and climate-resilient economy. This transition towards the low carbon development will have to be reflected in all national policies and measures. As in the case of the EU – ambitious climate policy will require action in all sectors of economy.

Recommendations – key issues to consider in the follow up programme(s):

Joint Statement by the Delegated Representatives of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia and Turkey on combating climate change in the Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates Zagreb, June 3, 2016

- *The ECRAN (2013 – 2016) cycle focused on strengthening climate policies and promoting the alignment of legislation, the next cycle should continue this strategy, with a clear shift towards implementation.*
- *Alignment with EU climate policies and legislation should be particularly promoted through the cooperation with the EU Member States and be in line with the best implementation modalities and practices. The beneficiary countries will thus be stimulated to develop implementing mechanisms for climate legislation, including peer review structures set up in cooperation with EU Member States.*
- *The follow up programme(s) should also assist in promoting the set-up of the necessary structures that are the pre-requisite for implementing the key climate legislation, particularly the MMR, EU ETS and the forthcoming EU integrated climate and energy governance.*
- *A continuous exchange of information and identification of synergies with other ongoing regional initiatives in the field of climate action and energy (such as the bilateral donors, the international donors and the Secretariat of the Energy Community) should be promoted, while the cooperation with civil society organisations should be continued and further supported.*
- *Special focus should be given to capacity building for the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and countries' obligations under it, including the implementation of their (Intended) Nationally Determined Contributions ((I)NDCs). All countries need to ratify the Paris Agreement and put emphasis on the implementation of the common transparency mechanism and the ambition mechanism.*

The Delegated Representatives expressed their appreciation to the Minister of Environment and Nature Protection of Croatia for hosting this meeting and creating a constructive atmosphere conducive to wide-ranging and thorough discussions.

Done and concluded in Zagreb on 3 June 2016, 17.00 Hrs