

Climate diplomacy: Council renews the EU's commitment to place climate action at the centre of external policy

Foreign ministers today discussed **climate diplomacy** and restated the political centrality of climate action for the European Union. Following the discussion, the Council adopted conclusions on climate diplomacy. This is a clear sign that in 2020 **climate** will be one of the **priorities in the EU's external policy**.

In its conclusions, the Council recalls that climate change is an **existential threat** to humanity and biodiversity across all countries and regions, and requires an urgent collective response. For this reason, EU **leadership through example** is crucial for raising the level of global climate ambition.

The Council highlights that the EU needs to **urge third countries** to intensify their efforts alongside the EU, and **support them** in their endeavours through all EU external policy instruments. The conclusions also stress the importance of **stepping up outreach** activities on climate action with partner countries and regional organisations, including in the context of upcoming summits.

In line with its commitment to the Paris Agreement, the objective of achieving a climate neutral EU by 2050, and the outcome of the December 2019 European Council, the Council calls on the High Representative, Commission and member states to **work jointly** and **urgently** towards a **strategic approach** to Climate Diplomacy by June 2020 that identifies concrete, **operational ways forward**.

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