

Joint statement of the Prague Climate Coalition

World news story

Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Prague issue a joint statement during COP26.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

We, Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Prague, join together during COP26 in Glasgow to express our hope that the world will find a way forward in this crucial moment. Six years after the unprecedented Paris Agreement, which saw world leaders committing to keep global temperatures from rising more than 2°C – and if possible 1.5°C – above pre-industrial levels, the world has not done enough. COP26 is a crucial opportunity to keep the 1.5°C limit alive.

Climate change affects us all. The nations suffering most from this crisis are already amongst the world's most fragile, and changing climate threatens to displace millions of people. We also see the effects of climate change much closer to home, in Central Europe, with more extreme weather conditions over the last years – drought, floods, tornadoes, high temperatures.

Global threats can only be countered with global action. But that can only happen through individual actors. The Czech Republic is a member of the EU which aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. It is not an easy task, but we are all on the same path and we can support each other and work together. We, the Prague Climate Coalition of likeminded Diplomatic Missions in Prague, are looking forward to working closely with the new Czech government and parliament, civil society and other stakeholders to share best-practice and experiences on the path towards carbon neutrality. Every contribution counts and only together can we make the world a better place for future generations.

- British Embassy
- Embassy of Canada

- Embassy of Egypt
- Embassy of Finland
- Embassy of Ireland
- Embassy of Italy
- Embassy of Sweden
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Embassy of the Republic of Korea
- Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia
- Germany Embassy
- Royal Danish Embassy
- Royal Norwegian Embassy

Follow the latest developments at #COP26 throughout the two first weeks in November and check out our activities on our social networks #PragueClimateCoalition.

Published 4 November 2021

COP26 sees UK businesses lead the world in climate change commitments

- Over half of the UK's largest businesses have committed to eliminate their contribution to carbon emissions by 2050, representing a total market capital of over £1.2 trillion and combined annual turnover of £700 billion
- today's milestone means pledges have tripled in the past 10 months, cementing British businesses' position in leading the way in the world's

transition to a low carbon economy

- as the world gathers together at the UN COP26 climate summit, the UK Government is calling on the global private sector to follow the UK's example and join the UN Race to Zero

As of today, 60 of the UK's FTSE 100 companies have signed up to the United Nation's Race to Zero campaign – the largest ever global alliance committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest, backed by independent experts and organisations to ensure everyone in the Race is following through on meeting their targets – signally a strong shift in the UK economy to a greener future.

Accelerating momentum from UK businesses means that pledges have more than quadrupled since November last year, now representing total market capital of over a trillion pounds and combined turnover of £700 billion.

Globally, over 5,200 companies of all sizes have now joined the UN Race to Zero, representing sectors like transport, technology, manufacturing, retail, and finance. Nearly half of these are British businesses, with the UK private sector demonstrating international leadership in global efforts to tackle climate change.

The Race to Zero acts as a kickstart for companies going green, guiding their actions in the transition to net zero and positioning businesses at the forefront of the global race to develop new green technology, kick-start new industries and attract private investment.

Business and Industry Minister Lee Rowley said:

Businesses both large and small, across all sectors of the global economy, have a crucial role to play in both reducing their environmental impact and developing the green technologies that will set us on the path to net zero.

With over 2,500 UK companies joining the Race to Zero, including the majority of our largest firms, the UK is leading the way in showing how going green doesn't just make sense for the planet – it makes business sense too.

Also announced today, over 2,000 small businesses from across the UK have pledged to reduce their emissions and join the Race to Zero through the Together For Our Planet Business Climate Leaders campaign, which was launched by the Prime Minister earlier this year to help small businesses go green.

As these businesses are demonstrating, taking action to tackle climate change does not need to be at the expense of a growing economy – between 1990 and 2019, the UK's economy grew by 78% while carbon emissions fell by 44%, the fastest reduction in the G7.

Taking action on climate change will help businesses grow, seize new opportunities, create new jobs, encourage investment and adapt against the challenges of a changing planet, while reducing emissions can lower businesses' running costs, save them money and attract new customers – ultimately helping them maintain a competitive advantage locally and globally.

The commitments build on the government's recently published Net Zero Strategy, which outlines measures to transition to a green and sustainable future, helping businesses and consumers to move to clean power, supporting hundreds of thousands of well-paid jobs and leveraging up to £90 billion of private investment by 2030.

As the world gathers at the UN Climate Summit COP26 in Glasgow, the government is calling on business of all sizes – both in the UK and around the world – to take urgent action and demonstrate their climate leadership by signing-up to Race to Zero and setting out clear pathways to get to net zero.

UK Net Zero Business Champion Andrew Griffith said:

As the world seeks bold solutions to combat climate change, we need businesses of all sizes to put the environment at the heart of their operations, making tangible climate commitments that helps chart our path to net zero emissions by 2050.

By setting out ambitious climate targets, Britain's leading businesses are sending a clear signal to world leaders at COP26 that now is the time to act. I hope it encourages other companies across the world to outline their own net-zero ambitions and grasp the economic opportunities of this global green industrial revolution.

Nigel Topping, UN High Level Climate Champion for COP26, said:

The mobilisation of so many of the FTSE100 behind our common goal to deliver the promise of the Paris Agreement is further proof that the global economy is irreversibly aligning to keep 1.5C alive. By joining Race to Zero, these leading companies are stepping up to drive the innovation needed and show that net zero is both technologically possible and economically attractive.

Today's milestone announcement in UK business climate commitments follows the Heroes of Net Zero awards, a competition launched by the UK government in September 2021 to find the UK's best small businesses taking innovative steps to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The winners were selected 2 November 2021 at the official COP26 event, The Heroes of Net Zero Awards by Andrew Griffith MP, the UK's Business Net Zero Champion, James Close from NatWest Group, Gabrielle Giner from BT, and Marta Smart from SSE. Winning an exclusive prize

package worth £4,500, the winning small businesses were: Design Abled and VMI.TV Ltd.

These collective efforts from the government to encourage businesses to go green all form part of the UK-wide Together for our Planet campaign, which the government launched in June 2021 to build momentum in the lead up to COP26, showcasing how people across the UK are going One Step Greener.

At COP26 and beyond, the UK government is calling on all businesses, of all sizes, to pledge to go One Step Greener and sign up to the globally-recognised UN Race to Zero Climate Commitment, which helps organisations become more energy efficient, switch to electric vehicles and active travel, and become landfill free. By doing so, they can protect the planet and their business, and help us start a green business revolution.

[Commemorative coin marking Mahatma Gandhi's remarkable life unveiled for the first time](#)

News story

A new £5 coin to commemorate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi has been unveiled by the Chancellor today (4 November) during the Hindu festival of Diwali.



- Chancellor Rishi Sunak reveals new £5 collectors coin to celebrate the life of Mahatma Gandhi
- Coin features image of India's national flower and is part of the Royal Mint's wider Diwali collection, including the UK's first gold bar depicting an image of the Hindu goddess Lakshmi

- Commemorative coin launched to coincide with Diwali and in the 75th year of India's Independence

Available in a range of standards including gold and silver, the special collectors' coin was designed by Heena Glover and features an image of a lotus, India's national flower, alongside one of Gandhi's most famous quotes – 'My life is my message'.

Building on the enduring relationship and cultural connections between the UK and India, it is the first time that Gandhi has been commemorated on an official UK coin with the final design chosen by Rishi Sunak, who is the Master of the Mint.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak said:

This coin is a fitting tribute to an influential leader who inspired millions of people around the world.

As a practicing Hindu, I am proud to unveil this coin during Diwali. Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the movement for Indian independence and it is fantastic to have a UK coin commemorating his remarkable life for the first time.

The £5 coin, which goes on sale today, is part of the Royal Mint's wider Diwali collection, which includes 1g and 5g gold bars in henna-style packaging, and the UK's first gold bar depicting Lakshmi – the Hindu goddess of wealth.

The 20g gold Lakshmi bar was designed in partnership with the Hindu community in South Wales, where the Royal Mint is based. The Mint will join the celebrations at the Shree Swaminarayan Temple in Cardiff, where worshippers will offer prayers to goddess Lakshmi and lord Ganesha for the coming year.

Nicola Howell, Chief Customer Officer for The Royal Mint, said:

As we approach Diwali celebrations, we are delighted to unveil the first official UK coin commemorating the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. The beautiful design builds on the enduring relationship and cultural connections between the UK and India.

The announcement comes as India is celebrating its 75th year of Independence this year.

Last year, the Chancellor commissioned the new "Diversity Built Britain" 50p coin following discussion with the 'We Too Built Britain' campaign, which works for fair representation of minority communities' contributions across all walks of life. Around 10 million of the coins, which recognise and celebrate Britain's diverse history, went into circulation in October 2020.

Further information

- The non-circulating commemorative coin is available from [The Royal Mint website](#)
- Photos are available [here](#) and on the Treasury's Flickr page.
- The Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC) advises the Chancellor, as Master of the Mint, on designs for UK coinage.

Published 4 November 2021

[End of coal in sight as UK secures ambitious commitments at COP26 summit](#)

- Thanks to a package of support from the UK and our international partners, a 190-strong coalition has today agreed to both phase out coal power and end support for new coal power plants
- the UK's campaign sees major banks commit to end financing coal, on top of China, Japan, Korea and the G20 commitments to end overseas finance for coal generation by the end of 2021, effectively ending all public financing of new unabated coal power
- agreed under the UK's COP26 Presidency, countries pledge to accelerate coal phase out and rapidly scale up deployment of clean power generation, marking a momentous turning point in the global clean energy transition

Today's commitments, brought together through UK-led efforts including the new 'Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement', encompass developed and developing countries, major coal users and climate vulnerable countries. This includes 18 countries committing for the first time to phase out and not build or invest in new coal power, including Poland, Vietnam, and Chile, marking a milestone moment at COP26 in the global clean energy transition.

This statement, launched today, commits nations across the world to:

- end all investment in new coal power generation domestically and internationally
- rapidly scale up deployment of clean power generation
- phase out coal power in economies in the 2030s for major economies and 2040s for the rest of the world
- make a just transition away from coal power in a way that benefits

workers and communities

This is on top of China, Japan and Korea, the three largest public financiers of coal, committing to end overseas finance for coal generation by the end of 2021, announced in the last year during the UK's incoming COP26 Presidency. Agreements at the G7, G20 and OECD to end public international coal finance send a strong signal that the world economy is shifting to renewables. This could end over 40GW of coal across 20 countries, equivalent to over half of the UK's electricity generating capacity.

Business & Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

Today marks a milestone moment in our global efforts to tackle climate change as nations from all corners of the world unite in Glasgow to declare that coal has no part to play in our future power generation.

Spearheaded by the UK's COP26 Presidency, today's ambitious commitments made by our international partners demonstrate that the end of coal is in sight. The world is moving in the right direction, standing ready to seal coal's fate and embrace the environmental and economic benefits of building a future that is powered by clean energy.

To meet the goals of the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees, the global transition to clean power needs to progress 4 to 6 times faster than at present. With coal being the single largest contributor to climate change, phasing it out and delivering a rapid, inclusive transition to clean energy is essential if we are to keep 1.5 degrees alive.

Twenty-eight new members have today signed up to the world's largest alliance on phasing out coal, the Powering Past Coal Alliance launched and co-chaired by the UK. Chile, Singapore and Durban have today joined over 150 countries, sub-nationals and businesses, including finance partners NatWest, Lloyds Banking, HSBC and Export Development Canada. This accounts for over \$17 trillion assets now committed to PPCA coal phase out goals.

There has also been a 76% cut in the number of new coal plants planned globally over the last 6 years which means the cancellation of 1000GW of new coal plants since the Paris Agreement, roughly equivalent to around 10 times the UK's total peak generating capacity.

Today's global agreement to move away from coal to clean power has been made possible thanks to a number of other UK-convened initiatives, including:

No new coal power

The end of new coal power construction is in sight. The launch of the No New Coal Power compact by 6 countries at the UN High Level Dialogue in September, followed by the commitments in the Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement. This means that by the end of this year, all new public finance

for unabated coal power plants will have stopped, with investments increasingly focused instead on accelerating the transition to clean energy sources such as wind and solar power, now cheaper than coal generation in most countries. This accelerates the growing global momentum to end new coal power, demonstrated by the 76% collapse in the global pipeline of proposed coal power plants since the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Supporting emerging economies

In addition, major emerging economies have announced plans to accelerate a just transition from coal to clean power. This includes a South Africa Just Energy Transition Partnership worth \$8.5 billion, as well as Indonesia and the Philippines agreeing a ground breaking new partnership with the Asian Development Bank to support the early retirement of existing coal plants. Further financing announcements are expected today at COP26.

Supporting coal-intensive economies

Countries with significant coal power generation and mining face large social and financial challenges in the transition from coal. The UK's COP26 Energy Transition Council (ETC) mobilises and coordinates the assistance required to enable coal intensive economies to equitably transition from coal, bringing together 20 governments and over 15 international institutions to accelerate the transition from coal to clean power as part of a green economic recovery. For example, the Energy Transition Council's Rapid Response Facility delivers fast-acting technical, regulatory and commercial assistance to countries and has already responded to 24 requests in a range of areas, including energy efficiency in the Philippines and grid management in Egypt.

Ensuring a just transition

Today the UK government has also launched a new International Just Transition Declaration, ensuring the move away from coal high carbon industries results in a sustainable, green and fair future, and one that creates high quality new jobs and champions local social dialogue in developing and emerging economies. Coordinated by the UK government, so far, 12 countries have signed as well as the UK and EU Commission, covering a broad spectrum of the world's donor funding, now driving towards a just transition for communities around the world.

Clean Growth, Energy and Climate Change Minister Greg Hands said:

As the host of COP26 and through committing to phasing out coal by 2024 and the UK's global leadership has sent a clear signal across the world that clean energy is the way forward.

By continuing to drive forward clean, green innovations at home and abroad, I look forward to stepping into this new chapter, united with the rest of the world in our efforts to consign coal to the history books, as we build back greener.

FCDO Minister for Africa, Vicky Ford said:

A just and inclusive transition to clean energy is a win-win for the UK and Africa. Phasing out coal is a central objective of the UK's COP Presidency and will support a cleaner, greener future for British people while creating hundreds of thousands of green jobs across the developing world.

This new funding will transform the support on offer for African countries transitioning to renewable energy. The Africa Regional Climate and Nature Programme will support green electricity networks across Africa, benefitting more than 4 million people, and the Transforming Energy Access platform will see 25 million more people across the developing world access clean energy.

The UK is already delivering many of the most ambitious clean power commitments among the world's largest economies, committing to phase out coal power completely by 2024, driving forward renewable power generation with a decarbonised power system by 2035, and demonstrating that tackling climate change does not need to be at the expense of a growing economy.

Between 1990 and 2019, the UK's economy grew by 78% while carbon emissions fell by 44%, the fastest reduction in the G7 – coal power makes up less than 2% of power generation compared to 40% almost a decade ago. These achievements follow the publication of the UK's landmark Net Zero Strategy last month, which outlines measures to support businesses and consumers to transition to clean energy, while supporting hundreds of thousands of well-paid jobs and leveraging up to £90 billion of private investment by 2030.

Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, said:

Energy Day at COP 26 is an important milestone for building momentum on Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the just, equitable clean energy transitions it can support.

We are the architects of a sustainable future for all. Today I call on all governments to raise the level of ambition necessary to fill the financing gaps and to ensure an energy future that truly leaves no one behind

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change in Canada and co-chair of the Powering Past Coal Alliance, said:

It is imperative that we phase out coal-fired electricity as a critical step to keep global temperatures from rising above 1.5°C and prevent the most severe impacts of climate change. In four years, the Powering Past Coal Alliance has united a diverse and

growing number of highly ambitious members, all committed to a clean energy transition that will make coal a relic of the past.

Whether sharing solutions or providing financial support to developing countries to help them succeed, Alliance members are driving change through this global collaboration.

Secretary of State for Scotland, Alister Jack, said:

As one of the first countries to commit to ending coal power, the UK is leading the world in moving away from fossil fuels and it's fantastic to see so many other countries making that commitment at COP26 in Glasgow.

Scotland has a massive part to play in the transition to clean, green energy. On offshore wind, for which Scotland has huge potential, our commitment is to quadruple capacity. Today's news signals tremendous progress – we must continue to move forward.

Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, said:

Before 2030 we need Just Transition plans in place in every country with decent and quality jobs at the heart. Workers and their unions are needed at the table through a genuine social dialogue process that ensures that transformative action moves our economies and societies to stabilise our climate and keep global warming under 1.5°C.

The union movement is keen to work with all the governments and institutions that sign this declaration to make this happen.

Michael R. Bloomberg, UN Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions and founder of Bloomberg L.P. and Bloomberg Philanthropies, said:

Success in the fight against climate change depends on ending coal-fired power – the largest driver of carbon emissions and the target of a major new initiative that Bloomberg Philanthropies expanded this week at COP26. Together with our international partners, we welcome the work of more allies dedicated to moving beyond coal and accelerating the clean energy transition we urgently need,

Minister Schulze, German Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, said:

Phasing out coal is essential to reach our climate targets. In the

near future, we will have left behind all fossil fuels and live in a new and sustainable energy world based on renewable energies. In order to get there, we need to actively shape the potential social impacts and support the affected regions in creating good sustainable new jobs. This means ensuring a just and inclusive transition together with all relevant stakeholders. Germany is willing to share its experiences with changing economic patterns and is thus supporting the Coal to Clean Statement and the Just Transition Declaration. Germany is underlining its commitment to further support the pathway towards a safe, sustainable and climate friendly energy future globally.

The French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs said:

Striving to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and in line with the objectives of the Paris agreement is a priority for France. In 2020, the French Development Agency Group committed 1.5 billion euros in the energy sectors to support developing countries for energy transition planning, access to electricity, energy efficiency and renewable energies. The partnership announced between South Africa, France, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union is a testament that France stands ready to support a just transition which is socially inclusive and creates local economic opportunities.

The COP26 energy transition campaign is focused on accelerating the decarbonisation of the power sector by phasing out coal and supporting the rapid scaling up of renewable energy by ensuring renewables are the most attractive option for new power generation in all countries.

Through the UK's COP26 Presidency and the COP26 energy transition campaign, the UK has provided a major political push and diplomatic effort in driving forward this trend and towards consigning coal to history.

Further progress includes:

- Over \$20 billion to support the global coal to clean power transition has now been announced at COP26 covering
- \$10 billion of philanthropy-led financing to support developing countries deploy clean power under the Global Energy Alliance People & Planet (announced on day 2)
- \$8.5 billion for the South Africa Just Energy Transition Partnership
- \$2 billion under the CIFs Accelerating Coal Transition facility

At the G7 leaders' summit in June 2021, the US, UK, Canada, and Germany have committed to jointly contribute up to \$2 billion to the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) new energy programmes, the Accelerating Coal Transitions (ACT) and Renewable Energy Integration (REI) programmes.

The UK as a co-founding and the largest contributor to the CIFs has committed £200 million to the Accelerating Coal Transition (ACT) programme. Announced today, India, South Africa, Indonesia and the Philippines are the initial countries selected for support through the new ACT.

Ukraine, Fiji, Colombia, Kenya and Mali were announced as selected for support through the Renewable Energy Integration (REI) programme.

Both these programmes will help raise ambition on global clean energy transitions. The UK also pledged today £5 million of support to the South East Asia Energy Transition Platform.

Meanwhile, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and South Africa have secured cutting-edge finance from the Climate Investment Funds to support their just energy transition from coal to clean energy. Indonesia and the Philippines have announced partnerships with the Asian Development Bank to accelerate their clean transition, including the early retirement of coal plants. And South Africa has announced a ground-breaking \$8.5 billion partnership with international partners to support a just energy transition from coal, the first of its kind worldwide.

The UK's FCDO department has also provided the following two packages of funding:

- UK's Transforming Energy Access (TEA) extension under the Ayrton Fund for clean energy Innovation – new funding of £126 million to leverage total of £1.3 billion in investment
- £22 million contribution to support the World Bank's Sustainable Renewables Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI); and the AfDB's Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA)

Working with the Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment initiative (SEAD) to hit the aim of doubling the efficiency of key products sold globally by 2030, the COP26 Product Efficiency Call to Action, aims to double the efficiency of four key products by 2030, which together account for more than a third of current global electricity consumption. With 14 number of signatories for our joint statement for action, including Japan and Nigeria, this now makes the UK-IEA call to action on product efficiency the largest ever commitment between governments to improve product efficiency.

The UK Government is today (Thursday, 4 November) publishing a Biomass Policy Statement, which gives an early indication of priorities and intentions for biomass use ahead of the publication of a full Biomass Strategy in 2022. The Policy Statement contains principles which will inform future biomass use across the UK economy and provides a view on the role of biomass in sectors, such as power, heat, transport and industry, and as part of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS).

The government intends to extend UK ratification of the Paris Agreement to the 3 UK Crown Dependencies: the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Isle of Man and the Bailiwick of Jersey. The formal process for finalising the treaty extension will be completed after COP26 and will bring the Crown Dependencies

into scope of the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target to reduce emissions by at least 68% by 2030 on 1990 levels.

Threats to re-establish Republika Srpska army risk undoing Dayton Agreement

Thank you Mr President. I'd like to start by congratulating Mexico on assuming the presidency this month and wish you all the best. I'd also like to congratulate Kenya for a very successful presidency in October.

Mr President, I would like to join other Council members in welcoming the adoption just now of a resolution that renews the authorisation for the EU stabilisation force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR ALTHEA, for a further 12 months. As the High Representative states in his recent report, the present turbulent environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina highlights the vital role of EUFOR ALTHEA in safeguarding peace and security, enabling the High Representative to fulfil his mandate and providing reassurance to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although this is by necessity a simple resolution, it rests on the great body of existing resolutions and other documents of this Council which set out the Council's position in full.

Mr President, although the new High Representative, Mr Christian Schmidt, is not with us today, we would like to thank him for his candid and thorough report on implementation of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was circulated to Council members pursuant to the requirements of the Dayton Agreement and Council resolutions. We look forward to welcoming him to the Council in upcoming meetings.

The High Representative's report paints a very worrying picture. We note his view that Bosnia and Herzegovina is facing the greatest existential threat of the post-war period and heed his warning on the real prospects for further division and conflict.

In particular, we share the deep concern of other Council members at the divisive rhetoric and actions pursued in some quarters of Bosnia and Herzegovina, notably by representatives of the Republika Srpska entity. Although these activities predate the 22 July amendment of the BiH Criminal Code by the former High Representative to sanction denial of genocide and war crimes and glorification of war criminals, the amendment appears to have provided a pretext for an escalation since then.

As the High Representative points out, these activities, including threats to re-establish a Republika Srpska army and to pull out of other established state-level institutions, represent an attempt to withdraw the Republika

Srpska from the constitutional order established under the Dayton Agreement. These moves seek to undo 26 years of hard won peace and progress. As such, we agree with the High Representative's assessment that these actions amount to an attempt to engineer secession from BiH. This endangers not only the peace and stability of the country and the region, but threatens an undoing of the Dayton Agreement itself.

In light of the political situation in BiH, it is more vital than ever that the Security Council makes clear its ongoing support for the full implementation of the Dayton Agreement. In addition to the military role of EUFOR, this includes the civilian role of the High Representative.

We would like to join others in expressing our support for the new High Representative, Mr Schmidt and for the use of executive powers should the situation require it. We reject attempts to undermine his appointment and close his office prematurely. This is not in the interest of the people of BiH but undermines regional security and BiH's objective of Euro-Atlantic integration. As agreed by the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board, and repeatedly reaffirmed by Council members, completion of the 5+2 agenda remains necessary for closure of the office. We urge the BiH authorities to recommit to achieving progress and welcome Mr Schmidt's proposed initiative to reinvigorate the process.

And we urge the entities and all citizens of BiH to harness the spirit of the positive developments in the High Representative's report, such as the mutual visits between the city mayors of Sarajevo, Mostar, Banja Luka and Tuzla.

Mr President, as a member of the Security Council and the Peace Implementation Council, the UK remains committed to supporting the security, stability, democracy, prosperity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We stand with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina in their hopes for a peaceful and bright future.