**Speakings, EU press briefing, Lima**

**Monday 08 Dec @ 1400**

**Francesco La Camera**

* Good afternoon and thank you for coming.
* Here in Lima, we have an important opportunity to make progress in tackling climate change by paving the way for a global climate change agreement to be adopted in Paris next year.
* We urgently need an ambitious global climate deal, because it is clear that without ambition we will not succeed in achieving our internationally agreed goal of global warming below 2 degrees Celsius.
* If we are to be successful in Paris, Lima must deliver tangible progress in three broad areas:
	+ Firstly, we must agree the key elements of the new Agreement as a basis for further negotiations in 2015;
	+ Secondly, Lima must also provide guidance on the information requirements for communicating individual countries' emission reduction contributions to ensure they are clear, transparent and comparable. In this same context ,we should also agree on a process that would allow us to understand what the individual contributions actually mean in terms of emissions – how far do the proposed commitments get us to our below 2 degree objective; and
	+ Finally, since the 2015 Agreement won't take effect until 2020, we must agree on a process to enhance ambition before 2020.
* Last week saw steady progress with movement on a number of issues, however, a few issues relevant to both pre- and post-2020 action remain outstanding.
* As the week ended, pledges to the Green Climate Fund had grown to USD 9.95 billion – with 4.6 billion of this total pledged by EU Member States. This is clear evidence of the continued commitment of developed countries to provide resources to the most vulnerable countries.
* Saturday was an historic day, as it saw the presentation of the first multilateral assessment of the European Union's progress towards implementing its 2020 commitments.
* This was a very positive experience and was welcomed in a constructive way by all Parties.
* The multilateral assessment, which continues today, is a model for how the posts 2020 monitoring, reporting and verification system can deliver. In other words, processes like this pave way for a robust transparency regime in the future agreement.
* As we head into the second week, we look forward to ministerial discussions injecting new impetus into the negotiations, particularly on finance and the ADP.
* Time is of the essence. We have just 12 months left before we are due to adopt the new global climate agreement.
* The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report underlined the urgency for action. Climate change is already being felt on all continents and across the oceans.
* Last week, we heard from the World Meteorological Organisation that 2014 is on track to be the warmest year on record.
* If this year's current global trend continues for the next two months, this will mean that 14 out of the 15 warmest years have occurred this century.
* It is clear from the scientific findings of the IPCC and others that we do not have the luxury of time. The world urgently needs a global climate deal.
* It is important that we make as much progress as possible in the remaining days.
* And now I will hand the floor to Commissioner Arias Canete

**Miguel Arias Canete**

* Thank you Francesco.
* Good afternoon.
* It is good to be here in Lima and I look forward to the ministerial discussions later this week.
* I would like to thank our Peruvian hosts for the creative and inclusive agenda they have prepared for us this week, which will not only include ministers but also bring together civil society and the private sector.
* As our COP 20 President, the Peruvian Minister of Environment, Manuel Pulgar Vidal, said in his opening speech: this must be the COP of wills. This must be the COP that lays the foundations for a global climate agreement.
* A global deal on climate change has never looked more likely than it does today.
* We have the opportunity in Paris to set the world on a low-carbon pathway and avoid dangerous climate change.
* That means we need a treaty with ambitious commitments from all countries to reduce their emissions.
* A truly global agreement must necessarily involve all countries, and most importantly all the big emitters.
* Because climate change is a global problem and it requires a global solution. It is not something one country or group of countries can achieve in isolation.
* The world is changing and we must change with it. The new deal must mirror the evolving national responsibilities in the world economy, as well as today's geopolitical realities and the capacity of countries to contribute.
* In short, it must be an Agreement fit for the 21st century.
* All countries face their own challenges and priorities, but when it comes to climate change there is no alternative solution to collective global action and multilateralism.
* Events in recent month have shown that there is global political resolve.
* Let me highlight the key developments that give reason for optimism:
* Firstly the Ban Ki-moon Climate Summit in September which inspired numerous climate commitments from companies and local authorities as well as countries.
* Then, in October EU leaders agreed ambitious climate and energy targets for 2030, including a binding domestic greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least 40%.
* This was followed in November by the announcement by the US and China announcement on their future targets.
* The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, also published in November, gives us hope. It tells us that our below 2 degree goal is still within reach provided we have the political courage to act now.
* And finally during the Lima conference we have seen pledges to the Green Climate Fund reach 9.95 billion USD - some 4.6 billion of this was pledged by EU Member States. The European Union welcomes in particular the pledges from developing countries.
* As Francesco said, progress in Lima is essential to success in Paris
* We have some important issues to deal with this week, in particular on finance, which will be an important component of the 2015 Agreement.
* Today, after one week of active negotiations and at the eve of the Ministerial segment of this Conference, I sense that we are well positioned to make sure the key deliverables are agreed. That we will have a more mature draft text of the 2015 Agreement, which can then be brougth to full focus by the time we get to Paris.
* We have already seen sufficient resolve among Parties to work together and to look for solutions beyond rhetoric. In the coming days we will need to redouble our efforts to understand each others concerns.
* We need to work to find approaches that enable us to lay the foundations for a balanced package, that includes mitigation but has equally relevant provisions for future adaptation work and provision of different forms of support – finance, capacity building and technology.
* So we have a lot of work ahead of us. It's time to knuckle down and ensure Lima delivers.
* Thank you.