



The
G7 Research Group
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presents the

2014 Brussels G7 Summit Final Compliance Report

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“We therefore remain committed to low-carbon economies with a view to doing our part to limit effectively the increase in global temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.”

Brussels G7 Summit Declaration

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy	- 1		
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score	+0.63		

Background

The first address on climate change was featured in the 1978 Bonn and 1980 Venice summits; however, these negotiations were directed towards energy security rather than the environment.²²⁷

Focus on the environment came in 1992, with the signing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.²²⁸ This was done with the objective of stemming atmospheric pollution, particularly greenhouse gas concentrations.

Discussions regarding the environment developed further at the 2002 Kananaskis Summit with the incorporation of sustainable development regarding agricultural practices and water resources, however, significant focus was placed on development in Africa and not a global effort.²²⁹

With further addresses at the 2005 Gleneagles Summit by UK Prime Minister Tony Blair and commitments made at the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, increased awareness and attention was placed on climate change, in particular on the reduction of pollutants and the steps necessary to stem the rise in global temperatures due to global warming.^{230,231}

Continued support for a global effort came at the 2009 Copenhagen meeting of the G8 member states and parties of the UNFCCC at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP-15) to establish a successor to the Kyoto protocol commencing in 2012.²³² Though the assembly was unsuccessful in

²²⁷ 2013 Lough Erne G8 Summit Final Compliance Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2013compliance-final/index.html>

²²⁸ 2013 Lough Erne G8 Summit Final Compliance Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2013compliance-final/index.html>

²²⁹ 2002 Kananaskis Final Compliance Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 31 May 2003. Date of Access: 2 March 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2003compliance/index.html>

²³⁰ Prime Minister Blair's Statement on the G8 Gleneagles Summit, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 July 2005. Date of Access: 2 March 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/blair-parliament.html>

²³¹ The G8 and Climate Change since Heiligendamm, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 3 July 2008. Access Date: 2 March 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/compliance/index.html>

²³² 2010 Muskoka G8 Final Compliance Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 24 May 2011. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/index.html#2011>

establishing a legally binding agreement, a list of 12 principles, referred to as the Copenhagen Accord, with the focus of climate change mitigation and adaptation, was created.²³³

The focus of climate change mitigation and adaptation is a shared focus by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC was created in 1988 and has provided the G8 with five reports to aid policy makers on the scientific basis and need for action regarding climate change.²³⁴ The fifth and most recent assessment from September 2013 to November 2014 consists of three Working Group reports and a Synthesis Report.²³⁵ This report was used as the basis for the 2014 G7 Brussels Declaration on climate change and calls for urgent and concrete action. It forms the ground work for this commitment as well as the larger climate agenda directed towards the development and adoption of a “2015 global agreement [with legal force under the convention applicable to all parties] that is ambitious, inclusive and reflects changing global circumstances.”²³⁶

In addition, the 2014 Brussels Declaration reaffirmed the G7 commitment to the Copenhagen Accord and the mobilization of USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address climate mitigation and adaptation in developing countries.²³⁷

Commitment Features

This commitment focuses particularly on the development and support of low-carbon economies in accordance with the views of the IPCC to stem the rise in global temperatures below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.²³⁸

In line with IPCC views, a low-carbon economy is one which develops and supports global mitigation to limit global warming to annual emissions of 15 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide.²³⁹

To accomplish this mitigation a collective effort across multiple fronts and countries is required. The IPCC Fifth Assessment focuses particularly on the global energy, transportation, infrastructure, and industry sectors to address this issue.²⁴⁰ However, to achieve such a global effort the mitigatory needs of developing nations must also be met in addition to the establishment of appropriate policies and institutions as stated in the 2014 IPCC Fifth Assessment Synthesis and third Working Group Report.²⁴¹

Compliance to this commitment thus requires both the implementation of mitigatory policies as well as financial support for mitigatory needs of developing countries to foster the development of a global low-carbon economy.

²³³ 2010 Muskoka G8 Final Compliance Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 24 May 2011. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/index.html#2011>

²³⁴ IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. <http://www.ipcc.ch/organization/organization.shtml#UqEGXpGEzwI>

²³⁵ Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/>

²³⁶ The Brussels G7 Summit Declaration, European Commission (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-402_en.htm

²³⁷ The Brussels G7 Summit Declaration, European Commission (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-402_en.htm

²³⁸ The Brussels G7 Summit Declaration, European Commission (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-402_en.htm

²³⁹ IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007 (AR4), IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_and_data_reports.shtml

²⁴⁰ Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change, IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 11 April 2014. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg3/>

²⁴¹ IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report, 2 November 2014. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>

Scoring Guidelines

- 1	Member takes no significant legislative OR funding action to implement a low-carbon economy.
0	Member takes EITHER significant legislative OR funding action to implement a low-carbon economy.
+1	Member takes significant legislative AND funding action to implement a low-carbon economy.

Lead Analyst: Daniel Szulc

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to contribute to the development and support of low-carbon economies in accordance with the views of the IPCC to stem the rise in global temperatures below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

On 24 November 2014 Prime Minister Stephen Harper pledged CAD300 million to the United Nations Green Climate Fund to help developing countries mitigate the consequences of climate change.²⁴² The allocated funding will assist the world's poorest countries to invest in clean energy technologies and to overcome climate change's adverse effects.²⁴³

On 1 December 2014 Environment Canada began developing proposed regulations under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA 1999) to regulate the manufacturing, import, and use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).²⁴⁴ HFCs are harmful greenhouse gasses used in refrigeration and air conditioning.²⁴⁵ Under the Montreal Protocol, Canada continues to promote a North American Proposal to phase down HFCs. The government has stated its intent to move forward with the creation of regulations and to continue to engage with the U.S. regarding policy development.²⁴⁶

On 12 March 2015 the government of Canada released the *Ozone-depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives Regulations*.²⁴⁷ The proposed regulations would align with Canada's international commitments to decrease the use and production of substances that cause ozone depletion. These regulations would replace the *Ozone-depleting Substance Regulation 1998*, and they include: (1) phasing out the use of hydrochlorofluorocarbons, (2) introducing a "permitting and reporting system"²⁴⁸ to monitor the amounts of hydrofluorocarbons that are imported, manufactured, and exported, and (3) assisting exempted users with the transport of methyl bromide.²⁴⁹

Furthermore, on 15 April 2015 at an international meeting in Bangkok, Canada, the United States, and Mexico submitted an amendment to the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer*

²⁴² Green Climate Fund approaches \$10 billion in pledges, United Nations. 24 November 2014. Date of Access: 24 May 2015. <http://www.un.org/climatechange/blog/2014/11/green-climate-fund-approaches-10-billion-pledges/>

²⁴³ Green Climate Fund approaches \$10 billion in pledges, United Nations. 24 November 2014. Date of Access: 24 May 2015. <http://www.un.org/climatechange/blog/2014/11/green-climate-fund-approaches-10-billion-pledges/>

²⁴⁴ Government Notices, Canada Gazette (Ottawa). 6 December 2014. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2014/2014-12-06/html/notice-avis-eng.php>

²⁴⁵ Government leads international efforts to phase down HFCs, Environment Canada (Ottawa). 19 April 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=1&nid=965329&crtr.tp1D=1Harper>

²⁴⁶ Government Notices, Canada Gazette (Ottawa). 6 December 2014. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2014/2014-12-06/html/notice-avis-eng.php>

²⁴⁷ Ozone-depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives Regulations, Canada Gazette (Ottawa). 21 March 2015. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. <http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2015/2015-03-21/html/reg1-eng.php>

²⁴⁸ Ozone-depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives Regulations, Canada Gazette (Ottawa). 21 March 2015. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. <http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2015/2015-03-21/html/reg1-eng.php>

²⁴⁹ Ozone-depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives Regulations, Canada Gazette (Ottawa). 21 March 2015. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. <http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2015/2015-03-21/html/reg1-eng.php>

(1987) to reduce the production and consumption of HFCs.²⁵⁰ Under the amendment, an estimated 90,000 megaton reduction in HFC emissions could result by 2050.²⁵¹ The reduced figure would be approximately twice the current global yearly production of greenhouse gas emissions.²⁵²

The federal government also continued its ecoENERGY program, which will invest a total of CAD195 million between 2011 and 2016 towards improving Canada's energy efficiency. The ecoENERGY program includes projects to encourage efficient buildings, housing, equipment, industry and vehicles.²⁵³

On 15 May 2015, Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced that Canada plans to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% by 2030, based on 2005 levels.²⁵⁴ As per this announcement, Canada has formally submitted its target to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Minister Aglukkaq also noted the government's intention to "develop new regulatory measures under its responsible sector-by-sector approach," including in the oil and gas, electricity, chemicals, and fertilizer sectors.²⁵⁵

Thus, Canada has fully complied with the commitment to a low-carbon future. It has made significant funding contributions to promoting a low-carbon economy at home as well as in developing countries. Canada has also proposed regulations for ozone-depleting substances in accordance with its commitments at the 19th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in September 2007, and continues to undertake domestic projects to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Analyst: Maria Alexiou

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to the development of a low-carbon economy to stem the increase in global temperatures to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

On 21 August 2014 the Ministry of Ecology, in conjunction with non-profit energy and environment groups, held five inter-regional meetings on carbon.²⁵⁶ These meetings aimed to inform professionals about the "balance sheet greenhouse gas carbon action plan" and how it can be used as a tool for action. Furthermore, during the 17 September 2014 meeting, the legislative and regulatory

²⁵⁰ Government leads international efforts to phase down HFCs, Environment Canada (Ottawa). 19 April 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=1&nid=965329&crtr.tp1D=1Harper>

²⁵¹ Government leads international efforts to phase down HFCs, Environment Canada (Ottawa). 19 April 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=1&nid=965329&crtr.tp1D=1Harper>

²⁵² Government leads international efforts to phase down HFCs, Environment Canada (Ottawa). 19 April 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=1&nid=965329&crtr.tp1D=1Harper>

²⁵³ ecoENERGY Efficiency and Alternative Transportation Fuels, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa). 6 October 2014. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/offices-labs/office-energy-efficiency/5691>

²⁵⁴ Government of Canada announces 2030 emissions target. Environment Canada (Winnipeg). 15 May 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?crtr.sj1D=&crtr.mnthndVI=5&mthd=advSrch&crtr.dpt1D=6672&nid=974959&crtr.lc1D=&crtr.tp1D=&crtr.yrStrtVI=2015&crtr.kw=&crtr.dyStrtVI=14&crtr.aud1D=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=2&crtr.page=1&crtr.yrndVI=2015&crtr.dyndVI=15>

²⁵⁵ Government of Canada announces 2030 emissions target. Environment Canada (Winnipeg). 15 May 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?crtr.sj1D=&crtr.mnthndVI=5&mthd=advSrch&crtr.dpt1D=6672&nid=974959&crtr.lc1D=&crtr.tp1D=&crtr.yrStrtVI=2015&crtr.kw=&crtr.dyStrtVI=14&crtr.aud1D=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=2&crtr.page=1&crtr.yrndVI=2015&crtr.dyndVI=15>

²⁵⁶ Regional meetings of carbon in 2014, Ministry of the Environment (Paris) 21 August 2014. Date of Access: 24 April 2015. <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Rencontres-regionales-du-carbone.html>

frameworks and the technical and financial assistance of the plan were set out to promote the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and energy consumption of businesses.²⁵⁷

France has worked to establish good relations with other countries to aid the development of a clean and low-carbon economy. On 17 September 2014, President Francois Hollande and King Abdullah II of Jordan reiterated their commitment to deepen the Franco-Jordanian economic partnership.²⁵⁸ The two leaders reviewed ways to increase bilateral trade and economic exchanges, with a particular focus on water and environment, energy efficacy and renewable energy, transportation, agro-industry, and education.²⁵⁹

On 21 November 2014, France pledged a donation of EUR489 million and a zero-interest loan of EUR285 million to the Green Fund, a international tool to aid developing countries in developing low-carbon economies.²⁶⁰ The Fund will specifically aid the implementation of adaptation policies for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.²⁶¹

On 28 November 2014, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls declared the fight against climate change a “major national cause” for 2015.²⁶² In order to limit worldwide carbon emissions, France seeks to influence a change in public support for exports of coal-generated power through an action plan entitled “Exemplary Administration,” which is to be implemented at the start of 2015.²⁶³ This action plan will focus on energy transition and encourage the use of agro-ecology products in public businesses.²⁶⁴

On 11 April 2015, during the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi’s official visit to France, the leaders underlined the importance of enhancing Indo-French cooperation on joint research, technology innovation, diffusion of clean energy, and efficiency solutions to help the transition towards a climate resilient and low carbon economy.²⁶⁵

France has thus been awarded a score of +1 for contributing funding and developing legislative and regulatory frameworks to achieve and promote a low-carbon economy.

Analyst: Yufei Sun

²⁵⁷ Regional meetings of carbon in 2014, Ministry of the Environment (Paris) 21 August 2014. Date of Access: 24 April 2015. <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Rencontres-regionales-du-carbone.html>

²⁵⁸ Joint written communiqué, Office of the President of the Republic (Paris) 17 September 2014. Date of Access: 24 April 2015. <http://www.elysee.fr/communiqués-de-presse/article/joint-written-communiqué/>

²⁵⁹ Joint written communiqué, Office of the President of the Republic (Paris) 17 September 2014. Date of Access: 24 April 2015. <http://www.elysee.fr/communiqués-de-presse/article/joint-written-communiqué/>

²⁶⁰ A success for financing the fight against climate change. Office of the President of the Republic (Paris) 21 November 2014. Date of Access: 24 April 2015. <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Un-succes-pour-le-financement-de.html>

²⁶¹ A success for financing the fight against climate change. Office of the President of the Republic (Paris) 21 November 2014. Date of Access: 24 April 2015. <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Un-succes-pour-le-financement-de.html>

²⁶² The fight against global warming: “major national cause” in 2015, Office of the Prime Minister and Government of France (Paris) 28 November 2014. Date of Access: 24 April 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-fight-against-global-warming-major-national-cause-in-2015>.

²⁶³ The fighting against global warming: “major national cause” in 2015, Office of the Prime Minister and Government of France (Paris) 28 November 2014. Date of Access: 24 April 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-fight-against-global-warming-major-national-cause-in-2015>.

²⁶⁴ The fight against global warming: “major national cause” in 2015, Office of the Prime Minister and Government of France (Paris) 28 November 2014. Date of Access: 24 April 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-fight-against-global-warming-major-national-cause-in-2015>.

²⁶⁵ India and France Joint Statement, Office of the President of the Republic (Paris) 11 April 2015. Date of Access: 24 April 2015. <http://www.elysee.fr/declarations/article/india-and-france-joint-statement/>

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to climate change regarding the implementation of a low-carbon economy via both legislative and funding action.

On 15 July 2014 at the fifth Petersburg Climate Dialogue, through the International Climate Initiative, the Federal Ministry of Environment supported the drafting of a new climate target for 2015 with 19 other countries.²⁶⁶ Chancellor Angela Merkel also announced a contribution of EUR750 million to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).²⁶⁷

On 8 August 2014, within the framework of the International Climate Initiative (ICI), the Federal Environment Ministry made a contribution of EUR3 million for greater resource efficiency in industry and for improving recycling in India.²⁶⁸ In addition, on 1 September 2014 a new project aimed to protect coastal zones and ecosystems on the Pacific Islands from the impacts of climate change was launched.²⁶⁹

On 23 September 2014 at the New York Climate Summit, the Federal Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks announced that Germany has formed a new partnership with Norway and Peru to establish a new forest-protection partnership to reduce the CO₂ emissions from deforestation.²⁷⁰

On 3 December 2014, Germany's cabinet approved a new national energy efficiency plan that will modernize and insulate buildings to reduce CO₂ emissions and meet their low-carbon climate targets.²⁷¹ The package predicts reductions in the amounts of 25 to 30 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions.²⁷² With this new plan, financial support of EUR1 billion in tax breaks and 200 million in low-interest loans will be provided.²⁷³ Cuts to transport emissions were also mentioned and would

²⁶⁶ Hendricks: spirit of change in climate policy-conclusion of the fifth Petersburg Climate Dialogue, Federal Ministry of Environment (St. Petersburg) 15 July 2014. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/hendricks-spirit-of-change-in-climate-policy-1/?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=846&cHash=7089d07188fee1da228655428fd09e6a

²⁶⁷ Green Climate Fund and encouraging sign for global climate agreement, Federal Ministry of Environment (Berlin) 20 November 2014. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/green-climate-fund-an-encouraging-sign-for-global-climate-agreement-1/?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=846&cHash=56e9039f6139af51ec42ef9f875eae1e

²⁶⁸ Efficient use of resources and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, Federal Ministry of Environment (Berlin) 8 August 2014. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/efficient-use-of-resources-and-reduction-of-greenhouse-gas-emissions/?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=846&cHash=c4234d59f993616d1bcb10ed5dae93bc

²⁶⁹ Federal Environment Ministry strengthens cooperation with Pacific Islands on action against climate change, Federal Ministry of Environment (Berlin) 1 September 2014. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/federal-environment-ministry-strengthens-cooperation-with-pacific-islands-on-action-against-climate-change/?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=846&cHash=bb8e4814aa08eac9d8bc419ba7b729d4

²⁷⁰ New York Climate Summit launches new initiatives to protect forests, Federal Ministry of Environment (Berlin) 23 September 2014. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/new-york-climate-summit-launches-new-initiatives-to-protect-forests/?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=846&cHash=70459fd7db9f5f715dbaeefa58d94dfe

²⁷¹ National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (Berlin) 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 24 May 2015. http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/Infomaterial/BMWI/nationaler-aktionsplan-energieeffizienz-nape_672756.html

²⁷² National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (Berlin) 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 24 May 2015. http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/Infomaterial/BMWI/nationaler-aktionsplan-energieeffizienz-nape_672756.html

²⁷³ National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (Berlin) 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 24 May 2015. http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/Infomaterial/BMWI/nationaler-aktionsplan-energieeffizienz-nape_672756.html

be accomplished via incentives to increase the number of electric vehicles on the roads.²⁷⁴ Additionally, cuts to industrial emissions from three to eight million tonnes would be accomplished by improving recycling.²⁷⁵

On 14 December 2014 at the COP20 Lima Climate Change Conference, the German Federal Environment Ministry and the British Department of Energy and Climate Change jointly launched the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) Facility and provided initial funding of EUR70 million.²⁷⁶ The funds will support developing countries and emerging economies such as Burkina Faso, Peru, Thailand, and Tajikistan in the implementation of complex climate change mitigation measures.²⁷⁷

For its significant legislative action and supporting funds to address the G7 commitment of climate change, Germany has been awarded a score of +1. It has a detailed plan for the reduction of CO₂ emissions, and has provided funding and monetary incentives to enhance the success of such a domestic action plan. In addition, Germany has performed significant action in terms of providing funding and establishing projects with developing countries to support the development of a low-carbon economy.

Analyst: Yufei Sun

Italy: -1

Italy has not taken any significant legislative or funding action to implement a low-carbon economy.

On 24 September 2014, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi announced Italy's intention to create more jobs through the green economy.²⁷⁸ He also expressed Italy's commitment to enter into legally binding future commitments on climate change at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change conference.²⁷⁹

Italy also signaled its interest in focusing on climate change issues during its Presidency of the European Union during the second half of 2014.²⁸⁰

On 23 April 2015, Italian lawmakers were briefed on the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

²⁷⁴ National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (Berlin) 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 24 May 2015. http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/Infomaterial/BMWI/nationaler-aktionsplan-energieeffizienz-nape_672756.html

²⁷⁵ National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (Berlin) 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 24 May 2015. http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/Infomaterial/BMWI/nationaler-aktionsplan-energieeffizienz-nape_672756.html

²⁷⁶ Sound foundations laid for global climate agreement, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (Berlin) 14 December 2014. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/12_en/2014-12-12-lima-klimakonferenz_en.html?nn=709674

²⁷⁷ Sound foundations laid for global climate agreement, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (Berlin) 14 December 2014. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/12_en/2014-12-12-lima-klimakonferenz_en.html?nn=709674

²⁷⁸ The Trio Programme, 2014 Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, 16 June 2014. Date of Access: 24 May 2015. <http://italia2014.eu/en/presidency-and-eu/programme-and-priorities/the-trio-programme/>

²⁷⁹ The Trio Programme, 2014 Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, 16 June 2014. Date of Access: 24 May 2015. <http://italia2014.eu/en/presidency-and-eu/programme-and-priorities/the-trio-programme/>

²⁸⁰ Italy: How Climate Change is Perceived among Italy's Public, Its Media Outlets and Its Politicians, KAS (Germany) December 2014. Date of Access 5 May 2015. http://www.kas.de/upload/dokumente/2014/12/Climate_Report/Italy.pdf.

Nations.²⁸¹ Italy intends to develop a new partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in preparation for the Climate Change Conference.²⁸²

Italy receives a score of – 1 for not introducing any new legislation or funding action to comply with their commitment to limiting the increase of global temperature through establishing a low-carbon economy.

Analyst: Reid Dobell

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to implement a low-carbon economy. Japan has put forth an action plan for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; however, the plan lacks specific legislative support.

From 4 to 6 August 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MoEJ) and the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) convened the 12th Workshop on GHG Inventories in Asia (WGIA12). The goal was to develop and improve Asian countries' GHG inventories and to enhance cooperative relations towards improving the accuracy of national GHG inventories across Asia. The workshop had succeeded in enhancing capacity-building on Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and strengthening the network of Asian countries.²⁸³

On 25 and 26 August 2014, the MoEJ held “The Twenty-Third Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change” with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Kanazawa.²⁸⁴ During the meeting, participants from the Asia-Pacific region (about 12 countries) had a technical discussion on the current formation and implementation of the “Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions: NAMA” in developing countries.²⁸⁵ The discussion discussed problems and solutions based on existing policies and achievements, as well as the idea of “Intended Nationally Determined Contributions: INDCs” relating the post-2020 framework.²⁸⁶

In addition, at the UN Climate Summit in New York on 26 September 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Japan's new pledge to promote technological innovation and diffusion to achieve the goal of reducing GHG emissions by 50 per cent by the year 2050, but no official action has yet to be taken.²⁸⁷

²⁸¹ Dramatic impact of climate change on people's lives demands response - FAO leader, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 23 April 2015. Date of Access 5 May 2015. <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/284535/icode/>

²⁸² Dramatic impact of climate change on people's lives demands response - FAO leader, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 23 April 2015. Date of Access 5 May 2015. <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/284535/icode/>

²⁸³ Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Asia, Greenhouse Gas Inventory Office of Japan (Japan) 2 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. <http://www-gio.nies.go.jp/wgia/wgiaindex-e.html>

²⁸⁴ The Twenty-Third Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change, Japan Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 22 August 2014. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2102.html>

²⁸⁵ The Twenty-Third Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change, Japan Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 22 August 2014. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2102.html>

²⁸⁶ The Twenty-Third Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change, Japan Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 22 August 2014. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2102.html>

²⁸⁷ Prime Minister Abe's Participation in the 69th Session of United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 29 September 2014. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp_a/page18e_000106.html

On 15 November 2014, Japan and the United States made a collective pledge of USD1.5 billion funds to the Green Climate Fund to support the control of greenhouse gas emission and build climate resilience worldwide.²⁸⁸

On 30 April 2015 the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Environment announced that it plans to cut GHG emissions by roughly 26 per cent by 2030, aiming for a respectable but feasible goal with the help of expanded renewable-energy use and the return of nuclear power.²⁸⁹ However, the official plan will be released at the Elmau Summit.

Japan has been awarded a score of 0 due to its partial commitment towards the implementation of a low-carbon economy. Japan has made efforts towards the establishment of a binding action plan, yet no concrete details have been set forth as of yet. Financial support has however been pledged towards international initiatives that will aid the implementation of low-carbon economies in struggling economies.

Analyst: Yufei Sun

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to effectively limit the increase in global temperature above pre-industrial levels by fostering a low carbon economy.

In the past year, the UK has continued its efforts to comply with its carbon budgets and targets plan.²⁹⁰ On 19 March the British government introduced the new Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2015.²⁹¹ The regulations control the emissions standards of the refrigeration and air-conditioning industries predominantly, two sectors with historically high levels of greenhouse gas emissions.²⁹²

On 24 March 2015, the Secretary of State for energy and climate change announced a pilot program with the UK Green Investment Bank to assist with the investment of the UK International Climate Fund. The secretary also noted that GBP200 million would be committed by the government to supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in developing countries.²⁹³

The UK thus receives a score of +1 for introducing emissions-limiting legislation in targeted sectors and creating a new initiative for reducing carbon emissions in developing countries.

Analyst: Reid Dobell

²⁸⁸ US, Japan Pledge 4.5 Billion to Green Climate Fund, World Resources Institute. 17 November 2014. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. <http://www.wri.org/blog/2014/11/us-japan-build-climate-action-momentum-45-billion-pledge-are-conditions-fair-and>

²⁸⁹ Japan proposes to cut greenhouse gas emissions 26 pct by 2030, Reuters, (Tokyo) 30 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. <http://mobile.reuters.com/article/utilitiesSector/idUSL4N0XR5ZV20150430?irpc=932>

²⁹⁰ Carbon Budgets and targets, Committee on Climate Change (London) 2015. Date Accessed 6 May 2015.

<http://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/reducing-carbon-emissions/carbon-budgets-and-targets/>

²⁹¹ F Gas Regulations for UK Remade, NQA (London) 19 March 2015. Date Accessed 6 May 2015.

<https://www.nqa.com/en-gb/resources/legal-updates/march-2015-%281%29/f-gas-regulations-for-uk-remade>

Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2015, UK Government (London) Date Accessed 6 May 2015.

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/310/pdfs/uksi_20150310_en.pdf.

²⁹² F Gas Regulations for UK Remade, NQA (London) 19 March 2015. Date Accessed 6 May 2015.

<https://www.nqa.com/en-gb/resources/legal-updates/march-2015-%281%29/f-gas-regulations-for-uk-remade>

Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2015, UK Government (London) Date Accessed 6 May 2015.

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/310/pdfs/uksi_20150310_en.pdf.

²⁹³ UK Green Investment Bank International Pilot, Department of Energy & Climate Change and The Rt Honourable Edward Davey (London) 24 March 2015. Date Accessed 6 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/uk-green-investment-bank-international-pilot>.

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its pledge to remain committed to low-carbon economies with a view to limiting effectively the increase in global temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. This was done through the proposal of comprehensive domestic and international plans to limit and decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and to encourage the free trade of environmental goods. In addition, the U.S. funded the initiatives of developing states to mitigate the effects of global warming and pursue greener economies.

On 2 June 2014 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the Clean Power Plan, under the Clean Air Act, to create carbon pollution standards for existing power plants.²⁹⁴ The plan aims for a 30 per cent decrease in carbon pollution below 2005 levels by the power sector by 2030.²⁹⁵ Under the plan, states can choose how they will restructure their energy sectors to lower their overall carbon intensity and meet state-specific goals set by the EPA.²⁹⁶ The four “building blocks” of the plan are: (1) increase the efficiency of fossil fuel power, (2) increase the use of low-emitting power sources, (3) increase the use of zero- and low-emitting power sources, and (4) use electricity more efficiently.²⁹⁷ According to Janet McCabe, the EPA’s top climate change official, if states fail to submit their own customized plans the EPA will force them to comply with a federal “model rule.”²⁹⁸

On 8 July 2014 the United States began negotiations within the World Trade Organization (WTO) for an Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) among the United States, Australia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, the European Union, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland and Chinese Taipei. The goal of the proposed agreement is to reduce tariffs on 54 environmental goods among these states—which are responsible for 86 per cent of the world’s trade in such goods.²⁹⁹ Tariffs on environmental goods can be as high as 35 per cent,³⁰⁰ and cutting tariffs on these goods could improve access to the technologies that states require to build greener economies.³⁰¹

On 11 November 2014 President Barack Obama made a joint announcement with China which outlined a plan to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.³⁰² The United States agreed to lower their

²⁹⁴ Climate Change and President Obama’s Action Plan, The White House (Washington). Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change>

²⁹⁵ Climate Change and President Obama’s Action Plan, The White House (Washington). Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change>.

²⁹⁶ FACT SHEET: Clean Power Plan Framework, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2 June 2014. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/fact-sheet-clean-power-plan-framework>.

²⁹⁷ FACT SHEET: Clean Power Plan Framework, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2 June 2014. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/fact-sheet-clean-power-plan-framework>.

²⁹⁸ For States That Don’t File Carbon-Cutting Plans, E.P.A. Will Impose ‘Model Rule’, The New York Times (New York), 7 January 2015. Date of Access: 11 May 2015. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/08/us/politics/for-states-that-dont-file-carbon-cutting-plans-epa-will-impose-model-rule-.html>.

²⁹⁹ Joint Statement Regarding the Launch of the Environmental Goods Agreement Negotiations, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 8 July 2014. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2014/July/Joint-Statement-Regarding-Launch-of-Environmental-Goods-Agreement-Negotiations>.

³⁰⁰ Environmental Goods Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) Date of Access: 10 May 2015. <https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/other-initiatives/environmental-goods-agreement>.

³⁰¹ Environmental Goods Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) Date of Access: 10 May 2015. <https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/other-initiatives/environmental-goods-agreement>.

³⁰² Climate Change and President Obama’s Action Plan, The White House (Washington). Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change>.

greenhouse gas emissions from between 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2025.³⁰³ China announced its own goal to cap its carbon emissions around the year 2030 and to double its portion of zero-carbon energy to 20 per cent.³⁰⁴ Both states also agreed to deepen their bilateral clean energy cooperation.³⁰⁵ They have agreed to (1) expand their joint clean energy research and development initiatives, (2) undertake a large carbon capture and storage project in China, (3) enhance cooperation to decrease the use of harmful hydrofluorocarbons, (4) launch an initiative for “climate-smart/low-carbon cities,”⁽³⁰⁶ and (5) promote the trade of eco-friendly technologies.³⁰⁷

In addition, the United States contributed to mitigating the effects of global warming in developing countries by contributing USD3 billion to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) on 15 November 2014.³⁰⁸ The GCF investments will help some of the poorest countries in the world to decrease carbon pollution, enhance resilience to climate change, and promote sustainable long term growth.³⁰⁹ The fund will target both emissions mitigation and climate resilience activities, and will include a board with an equal number of developed and developing countries for a high degree of collaboration.³¹⁰

For its significant legislative and funding initiatives towards creating a low-carbon economy domestically and in developing countries, the United States has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Maria Alexiou

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its pledge to remain committed to low-carbon economies with a view to limiting the increase of global temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. This was done primarily through funding and programming to promote environmental transportation, research, infrastructure, and industry.

On 2 December 2014 the European Commission invested EUR54 million into the “Interreg” program aiming to increase cooperation between Austria and Germany and prioritize protecting the

³⁰³ Climate Change and President Obama’s Action Plan, The White House (Washington). Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change>.

³⁰⁴ Climate Change and President Obama’s Action Plan, The White House (Washington). Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change>.

³⁰⁵ Climate Change and President Obama’s Action Plan, The White House (Washington). Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change>.

³⁰⁶ FACT SHEET: U.S.-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change and Clean Energy Cooperation, The White House Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 11 November 2014. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/11/fact-sheet-us-china-joint-announcement-climate-change-and-clean-energy-c>.

³⁰⁷ FACT SHEET: U.S.-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change and Clean Energy Cooperation, The White House Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 11 November 2014. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/11/fact-sheet-us-china-joint-announcement-climate-change-and-clean-energy-c>.

³⁰⁸ FACT SHEET: United States Support for Global Efforts to Combat Carbon Pollution and Build Resilience, The White House Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 15 November 2014. Date of Access: 9 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/15/fact-sheet-united-states-support-global-efforts-combat-carbon-pollution->.

³⁰⁹ FACT SHEET: United States Support for Global Efforts to Combat Carbon Pollution and Build Resilience, The White House Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 15 November 2014. Date of Access: 9 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/15/fact-sheet-united-states-support-global-efforts-combat-carbon-pollution->.

³¹⁰ FACT SHEET: United States Support for Global Efforts to Combat Carbon Pollution and Build Resilience, The White House Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 15 November 2014. Date of Access: 9 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/15/fact-sheet-united-states-support-global-efforts-combat-carbon-pollution->.

Alpine environment through cross border initiatives.³¹¹ Approximately EUR16.7 million was allocated to “conserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency.”³¹²

On 17 December 2014 the European Commission announced its adoption of a EUR9 billion investment package to promote Portugal’s economy focusing on resource-efficiency and climate resilience from 2014-2020.³¹³ The “Sustainability and Efficiency in the Use of Resources” program, worth EUR2.65 billion, will promote a switch to a low-carbon economy.³¹⁴ This will focus on urban areas through projects such as the promotion of sustainable urban transportation.³¹⁵ The results of the project are expected to include recycling and reusing over half of the Portugal’s urban waste, increasing the production of renewable energy by over 50 per cent and decreasing emissions by 80.640 CO2 equivalent tons per year.³¹⁶

On 18 December 2014 the European Commission approved seven “Operational Programmes” for Slovakia for 2014-2020. The total amount pledged was approximately EUR13.8 billion, and a key priority of the program is to support the shift to a more competitive and low-carbon economy.³¹⁷ Under the “Quality of the Environment” priority, EUR 4.3 billion was allocated to tackle issues relating to climate change.³¹⁸ The priorities include the responsible use of natural resources, flood protection, risk management relating to climate change and the support of energy-efficient solutions in all sectors. Among the expected results are improved wastewater treatment for over 200,000

³¹¹ Austria and Germany: EU invests 54 million euro to boost cooperation across Bavaria’s border, European Commission (Brussels) 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/austria-and-germany-eu-invests-54-million-euro-boost-cooperation-across-bavarias-border_en

³¹² Austria and Germany: EU invests 54 million euro to boost cooperation across Bavaria’s border, European Commission (Brussels) 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/austria-and-germany-eu-invests-54-million-euro-boost-cooperation-across-bavarias-border_en

³¹³ EU investment package worth nearly €9 billion for Portugal focuses on strengthening SME competitiveness and a resource-efficient, climate resilient economy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 December 2014. Date of Access: 9 May 2015. “http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/eu-investment-package-worth-nearly-eu9-billion-portugal-focuses-strengthening-sme-competitiveness_en

³¹⁴ EU investment package worth nearly €9 billion for Portugal focuses on strengthening SME competitiveness and a resource-efficient, climate resilient economy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 December 2014. Date of Access: 9 May 2015. “http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/eu-investment-package-worth-nearly-eu9-billion-portugal-focuses-strengthening-sme-competitiveness_en

³¹⁵ EU investment package worth nearly €9 billion for Portugal focuses on strengthening SME competitiveness and a resource-efficient, climate resilient economy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 December 2014. Date of Access: 9 May 2015. “http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/eu-investment-package-worth-nearly-eu9-billion-portugal-focuses-strengthening-sme-competitiveness_en

³¹⁶ EU investment package worth nearly €9 billion for Portugal focuses on strengthening SME competitiveness and a resource-efficient, climate resilient economy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 December 2014. Date of Access: 9 May 2015. “http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/eu-investment-package-worth-nearly-eu9-billion-portugal-focuses-strengthening-sme-competitiveness_en

³¹⁷ Slovakia will benefit from €13.8 billion of EU funds for transport, environment, research, energy efficiency and human capital, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/slovakia-will-benefit-eu138-billion-eu-funds-transport-environment-research-energy-efficiency-and_en

³¹⁸ Slovakia will benefit from €13.8 billion of EU funds for transport, environment, research, energy efficiency and human capital, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/slovakia-will-benefit-eu138-billion-eu-funds-transport-environment-research-energy-efficiency-and_en

citizens, and increased renewable energy sources to 15.5 per cent of Slovakia's gross energy consumption.³¹⁹

On 19 December 2014 the European Commission adopted a program to increase transnational cooperation within the EU's Northern and Arctic members and their neighbours. Finland, Ireland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom will partner with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, and Norway to tackle common challenges.³²⁰ In addition, these countries will cooperate with partners from Canada and Russia. The EU's total contribution to the Northern Periphery and Arctic 2014-2020 Programme was over EUR50 million.³²¹ One of the funding priorities of the program is to foster "energy-secure communities through the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency."³²²

On 22 January 2015 the European Commission approved a EUR63 million investment from the EU Cohesion Fund to extend Bratislava's tramway from the city centre to the most populated borough of Petržalka.³²³ The planned 2.4 km double track tramway will have three new stops and benefit 470 000 people.³²⁴ This project will reduce the number of cars on the road, and will "boost the city's economic competitiveness and will help the country meet its climate change targets."³²⁵

On 5 February 2015 the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina Crețu attended the 20th Conference of Presidents of the EU's Outermost Regions and discussed assisting the EU's peripheral regions to focus resources and investments on economic development and to increase the use of renewable energies to face climate change.³²⁶ The nine peripheral regions are Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion, Saint-Martin, the Azores, Madeira, and the Canary Islands.

³¹⁹ Slovakia will benefit from €13.8 billion of EU funds for transport, environment, research, energy efficiency and human capital, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/slovakia-will-benefit-eu138-billion-eu-funds-transport-environment-research-energy-efficiency-and_en

³²⁰ European Commission adopts new transnational cooperation programme for the EU's Northern and Arctic countries and their neighbours, European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2014. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/european-commission-adopts-new-transnational-cooperation-programme-eus-northern-and-arctic-countries_en

³²¹ European Commission adopts new transnational cooperation programme for the EU's Northern and Arctic countries and their neighbours, European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2014. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/european-commission-adopts-new-transnational-cooperation-programme-eus-northern-and-arctic-countries_en

³²² European Commission adopts new transnational cooperation programme for the EU's Northern and Arctic countries and their neighbours, European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2014. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/european-commission-adopts-new-transnational-cooperation-programme-eus-northern-and-arctic-countries_en

³²³ €63 million of regional funds for the extension of Bratislava's tram to Petržalka, European Commission (Brussels) 22 January 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/eu63-million-regional-funds-extension-bratislavas-tram-petrzalka_en

³²⁴ €63 million of regional funds for the extension of Bratislava's tram to Petržalka, European Commission (Brussels) 22 January 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/eu63-million-regional-funds-extension-bratislavas-tram-petrzalka_en

³²⁵ €63 million of regional funds for the extension of Bratislava's tram to Petržalka, European Commission (Brussels) 22 January 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/eu63-million-regional-funds-extension-bratislavas-tram-petrzalka_en

³²⁶ Commissioner Crețu urges the outermost regions to exploit the full potential of EU Regional Funds, European Commission (Brussels) 5 February 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/commissioner-cretu-urges-outermost-regions-exploit-full-potential-eu-regional-funds_en

Over EUR6.6 billion of Structural and Investment Funds were pledged for 2014-2020 to assist these economies to become more self-reliant and to surpass economic and environmental challenges.³²⁷

On 13 February 2015 the European Commission adopted a new interregional cooperation plan for Ireland and Wales, which includes adapting the Irish Sea and coastal communities to climate change.³²⁸ The total amount pledged was EUR79 million with EUR27.7 million allocated for climate change initiatives, including the creation of 24 private, public and non-profit organizations and 10 research institutions to exchange knowledge for better climate change response and adaptation.³²⁹

Also on 13 February 2015, the European Commission pledged EUR288 million to increase cooperation across the Spain-Portugal border with the priority of increasing environmental protection initiatives, and in particular, flood-risk management.³³⁰

Due to the European Commission's funding and programming actions in the areas of environmental infrastructure and legislation, they have been awarded a score of +1 for positive compliance in support of a low-carbon economy to stem the rise of global temperatures due to climate change.

Analyst: Maria Alexiou

³²⁷ Commissioner Crețu urges the outermost regions to exploit the full potential of EU Regional Funds, European Commission (Brussels) 5 February 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/commissioner-cretu-urges-outermost-regions-exploit-full-potential-eu-regional-funds_en

³²⁸ Ireland and Wales to benefit from EU investments of more than €79 million for interregional cooperation projects, European Commission (Brussels) 13 February 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/ireland-and-wales-benefit-eu-investments-more-eu79-million-interregional-cooperation-projects_en

³²⁹ Ireland and Wales to benefit from EU investments of more than €79 million for interregional cooperation projects, European Commission (Brussels) 13 February 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/ireland-and-wales-benefit-eu-investments-more-eu79-million-interregional-cooperation-projects_en

³³⁰ Spain and Portugal: EU invests more than €288 million to boost cooperation across the border, European Commission (Brussels) 13 February 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/spain-and-portugal-eu-invests-more-eu288-million-boost-cooperation-across-border_en