

Beat: Politics

From Kyoto to Doha

EP votes about Climate change

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USPA NEWS - December's climate change conference in Paris aims to come up with an international agreement to help limit global warming after 2020, but it is far from the first one. MEPs are this week voting on a recommendation to ensure that the Doha climate agreement.

The 1992 United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change sought to slow down the increase in global temperatures, but by 1995 it was clear that it was inadequate. As a result the world's nations launched negotiations to strengthen the global response to climate change and in 1997 adopted the Kyoto Protocol, which initially only contained binding targets for emissions reductions until 2012.

After the Copenhagen climate summit of 2009 failed to come up with a new deal everyone could agree with, the Doha amendment to the Kyoto protocol was adopted in 2012. This introduced a "second commitment" period from 2013 to 2020 with new emission commitments that were at least equally ambitious as those under the first period. It legally binds developed countries to emission reduction targets of at least 18% below 1990 levels by 2020.

Italian EPP member Elisabetta Gardini wrote the recommendation on the Doha agreement MEPs are voting on this week, which calls on member states to ratify the text as soon as possible. She said that the Doha deal is mainly supported by EU countries and that member states are already implementing a 20% emissions reduction by 2020. As the Doha amendment only includes targets up until 2020, the search has been on for a new international agreement to succeed it.

In December 2014, experts, specialists and parliamentarians met in Lima to negotiate a text to succeed the Kyoto protocol. The European Parliament participated in the Lima conference with a delegation of 12 MEPs. Further talks take place during the climate change conference in Bonn on 1-11 June. During the G7 Summit in Bavaria, participating leaders also discussed climate change. The goal of December's climate conference in Paris is to agree the final text and then to implement it from 2020.

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