



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE BENELUX TALANOA DIALOGUE



BRUSSELS – On Monday, September 24, Minister for the Environment Carole Dieschbourg of Luxemburg, Climate Envoy Marcel Beukeboom of the Netherlands and a representative of Minister of Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development Marie Christine Marghem of Belgium attended the Benelux Talanoa Dialogue that was held at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Brussels. Over 150 participants from different economic sectors, civil society, science and governments discussed ways to enhance ambition in reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement based on three questions: Where are we, Where do we want to go and How do we get there?

In a true Talanoa spirit, characterized by story-telling, listening and working towards practical, co-operative solutions, participants looked at energy- and resource efficiency, transport, financing, the need for just transition and the possibilities Benelux cross-border co-operation have to offer. The results of this Dialogue were presented to the ministers.

Ministers affirmed the crucial importance of achieving the long term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement and recognised that this requires decarbonising the economy.

The outcome of the Talanoa Dialogue at COP24 in Katowice in December 2018 is a key step in that direction, as is the finalisation of the Paris Agreement Work Programme.

Ministers share the view that policy making should be based on sound science and emphasised that the IPCC Special Report on 1,5 °C, will be a valuable source of information for the Dialogue and for Parties reviewing their climate action.

They reiterated that all Parties to the Paris Agreement should submit by 2020 updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that are in line with the Agreement and its goals and look forward to COP24 for creating the right conditions allowing for the development of enhanced NDCs from 2019 onwards. They will continue discussing the options for the EU to maintain the lead in that context.

In that same setting Ministers pointed to the importance of the proposal for a Strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction, to be released by the European Commission in November 2018. They also affirmed their aim to strengthen mutual cooperation in preparing their national Long Term Low Emissions Strategies.

Ministers also reflected on ways of encouraging all sectors to contribute a fair share in reducing GHG emissions. The transport sector was identified as requiring particular attention. They agreed on the need to create the right framework for making public and private investments coherent with the Paris Agreement goals and the need to build capacities to respond to the challenge of climate change, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

They also highlighted that the transition to a carbon neutral and climate resilient society can be designed in a way that not only avoids adverse social and economic effects, but contributes significantly to economic growth, energy security, job creation, poverty eradication and sustainable development in general.

They underlined that the transition should be just and be people-centered, respecting the rights of all, and will continue to ensure public participation through dialogue and cooperation with all stakeholders.

By building on the initiatives of the 24 September Benelux Talanoa Dialogue, the ministers are determined to continue a close dialogue on technical and political level on the most promising joint pathways towards decarbonisation.

In order to maintain the momentum and create an open and transparent platform, the Ministers of the Benelux suggest to mandate a Benelux strategic steering committee to follow up and to launch pragmatic Benelux initiatives. The platform will create synergies within Benelux in the elaboration of integrated national energy and climate plans including through the Regional Energy and Climate Dialogue and the drafting and implementation of national Long Term Low Emission strategies as well as the elaboration of cross border instruments to catalyse the transition to a low carbon society.

Finally, Benelux ministers agreed to further elaborate on today's Benelux Talanoa dialogue results to be reflected in a joint ministerial Benelux Talanoa Declaration.