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|  | EUROPEAN COMMISSION | for_Sig_05 |

**27th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol**

**Dubai, 1-5 November 2015  
Intervention of the European Union and its 28 Member States**

**High-level segment**

Mr. President,

Your Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express, on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, special thanks to

* the Ozone Secretariat, for its support to the Parties and ensuring the smooth and efficient running of this meeting, and
* the United Arab Emirates for its hospitality in hosting the 27th Meeting of the Parties.

Mr President,

In 2015 we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Convention. Allow me to start by taking you back in history to 1985 when the Parties took their first step to what would prove to be the worlds’ most successful Multilateral Environmental Agreement.

In 1985:

* Scientists had just discovered the ozone hole
* Parties had only recently acknowledged the ozone depleting impact of some substances and the importance of the ozone layer in protecting human health and the environment
* We did not fully understand the interaction between the ozone layer and climate
* We did not have all alternatives and we did not have all the answers
* Yet, we recognized the importance of acting together to protect our own, and future generations’, health and environment.

I wonder, Mr President, if Parties could have had imagined where we would be today, 30 years after signing the Vienna Convention, and after more than 25 years of successful cooperation in the Montreal Protocol.

* Did they foresee our continued collaborative efforts in observing the ozone layer and its interactions with our climate?
* Did they realize that their determination to protect human health and the environment would - only 2 years later - result in successful action under the Montreal Protocol?
* Did they foresee that Parties would establish provisions to take account of the circumstances and requirements of developing countries?
* And how those provisions: differentiation of commitments between developed and developing countries, financial and technical support by the Multilateral Fund, monitoring and reporting provisions and a specific compliance regime, would enable all Parties to live up to their commitments?
* Could they imagine we would succeed in phasing-out more than [95]% of all ozone depleting substances?
* Did they anticipate the huge contribution of the Montreal Protocol to climate?

Mr President,

I’ve not been around long enough to know all the answers,

But I do know that we started this journey together and travelled successfully together so far. The European Union is pleased to have contributed to the successes of the Montreal Protocol and reiterates its dedication to foster further success.

Today, we find ourselves at a crossroads. Should we continue to follow the road of success? Or should we divert and risk undermining the recovery of the ozone layer by contributing to another global threat?

Mr President,

In previous meetings, the EU has expressed its concerns about the rapidly growing production and consumption of HFCs. HFCs are greenhouse gases with a high Global Warming Potential. These have been introduced as alternatives to HCFCs and ODSs that are being phased-out, due to our successful action under the Montreal Protocol. If no further action is taken, it is forecast that HFCs will represent a significant proportion of all GHG emissions by 2030.

In 2014, the EU reinforced its F-gas legislation to phase-down the use of HFCs in the EU by nearly 80% between now and 2030. We also note other Parties’ efforts implementing domestic HFC measures. These measures have already accelerated the deployment of climate friendly, cost- and energy efficient, alternative technologies. Manufacturers throughout the world are increasingly marketing HFC-free and energy-efficient technologies for many applications.

However, the EU believes that international action is possible and urgently needed to curb HFC growth. In this context we welcome the establishment of a contact group by the OEWG 36.

The EU considers the Montreal Protocol is the instrument to address HFCs. The EU has always supported proposals to amend the Montreal Protocol to address HFCs and welcomes the growing consensus to take action on HFCs under the Montreal Protocol.

Taking into account the discussions and concerns expressed by Article 5 Parties, the EU presented its proposal to amend the Montreal Protocol to address HFCs, in July.

To be effective, an HFC amendment should:

1. trigger timely action,
2. provide a clear signal to industry,
3. continue the principle of a collaborative but varied approach between Article 5 and non-Article 5 parties,
4. take into account specific circumstances,

5. while ensuring that the accounting and reporting of emissions of HFCs remain within the scope of the UNFCCC.

The EU proposes for non-A5 parties to set a timely phase-down schedule and for Article 5 parties a combined HFC/HCFC freeze with an informed decision in 2019 on a phase-down. This approach would:

* maximize the Montreal Protocol climate benefits by optimizing synergies with the ongoing HCFC phase out,
* enable more flexibility for A5 parties,
* and allow time for suitable, climate friendly alternatives to develop and mature.

The EU proposes to provide continued financial and technical support through the Multilateral Fund. The EU Member States are open to considering all options to ensure adequate funding for an amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase-down HFCs.

Mr President,

The EU is willing to help agree on how HFCs can be addressed under the Montreal Protocol.

We might be at a similar crossroads to where we were 30 years ago:

* Science has confirmed the threat of climate change
* Science has confirmed the potential climate impact of HFCs
* Not all alternatives are yet available
* We do not have all the answers
* Yet, we acknowledge the importance of timely action, and
* that we will have to act together to curb the unintended growing climate impact of HFCs.

Only this time we have the experience. We know it can be done. The EU is confident which direction we have to take and that the Parties can tackle the challenges ahead.

It is up to all of us to decide which road we will take together.

Thank you for your attention.