

RECEIVED 19 MAR 2010

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State
Department of Energy
and Climate Change

The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MC163639/JS

Your ref: 01093927

16 March 2010

Dear Tessa,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 December enclosing a copy of example correspondence from your constituents about the Copenhagen conference (COP15). I apologise for the lengthy delay in replying.

Your constituents specifically called on the Prime Minister to ensure EU Heads of Governments committed to a 30% emissions reduction target at their talks in early December. The meeting concluded that the EU should be ready to increase their 2020 target from 20% to 30% in the context of ambitious targets from other countries at Copenhagen. Unfortunately, despite determined lobbying led by the UK team, time ran out and an agreement on targets was deferred to subsequent negotiations. The EU has now submitted an unconditional commitment of 20% and a conditional commitment of 30% to the Copenhagen Accord. We want the EU to be able to move to 30%, and we want to increase our domestic target on this basis, so we will continue to work with our international partners to ensure bold cuts in emissions.

COP15 culminated in the agreement of the Copenhagen Accord. The Accord was agreed by major developed and developing country leaders and backed by a large majority of countries. It will reinforce the need for strong domestic action on climate change across the world.

In particular, the Accord:

- agrees to take action to hold the increase in global temperatures below 2°C;
- lists commitments and actions to cut emissions by developed and developing countries;
- introduces real scrutiny to ensure emission targets are met by both developed and developing countries, with mandatory reporting every two years; and

- provides finance from developed countries to help the least developed countries tackle and adapt to climate change – fast-start finance rising to \$10 billion per year by 2012, and long term financing of \$100 billion a year by 2020.

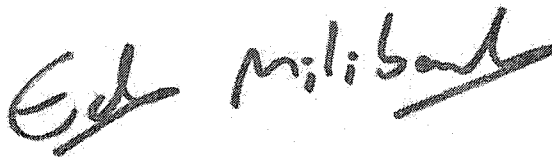
However, we can be under no illusion about the scale of the challenge remaining: the Accord is not legally-binding, nor is it supported by all Parties. We must therefore do everything we can to make the Accord operational, and work towards a legal treaty in the months ahead.

The voices of small island states and African countries were the most resonant at these talks. For their people, most vulnerable to climate change, they know we must have a legal framework. Together we will seek to persuade all countries of the need for a binding legal treaty.

We must also work to ensure that countries show the highest levels of ambition in delivering their proposed emissions cuts.

The challenge for all of us is not to lose heart or momentum and I am grateful for your constituent's support. The truth is that the global campaign, coordinated by green NGOs, backed by business and supported by a wider cross section of the public, has achieved a lot. We would never have had targets from so many countries, the engagement of leaders, and the agreement on finance without this sort of mobilisation.

Your constituent can read more about the outcomes of the conference on our website at: www.actoncopenhagen.decc.gov.uk/en.



ED MILIBAND