

ipcc

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IPCC OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

Revised proposal by the European Community for special Observer status

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat)

IPCC Secretariat

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**REVISED PROPOSAL BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
FOR SPECIAL OBSERVER STATUS**

The following proposal is submitted to the approval of the Plenary at its 31st Session

At its 30th Session, the Panel decided that IPCC Chair would invite the European Community (EC) to further revise its earlier proposal for special observer status, and prepare a document, including responses to comments and concerns expressed, to be circulated well ahead of next Session and included in the P-31 documentation. The present set of documents has been produced by EC in response to this invitation. The present proposal is submitted to the approval of the Panel. Explanatory notes are attached as Annex I and a copy of the letter sent by Mr José Manuel Silva Rodriguez, Director General of Research DG, to IPCC Chair, is attached as Annex II.

Revised proposal by the European Community, August 2009
(text to be added to current IPCC Policy on admission of observers)

“The Panel decides that the EC may exercise the following procedural rights at IPCC Sessions:

- 1) The right to speak in turn, rather than after all participant States have been acknowledged;
- 2) The right to reply;
- 3) The right to introduce proposals.

The Panel notes that these rights are exclusives.

They do not grant the ability to vote or to be elected.

This decision is without prejudice to the IPCC Principles”

Question and Answers

1) Would the proposed amendment to the Panel's policy on observers allow any other international organisation to seek full participation?

The European Community's (EC) proposal concerns the EC only. It would be up to the Panel to decide if and when other organisations should receive the same treatment as the EC. The EC is an organisation to which its Member States have conferred part of their sovereign powers, including on matters related to climate change, and that enjoys international legal personality that allows it to become a Party to international treaties. Currently, only the European Community is in this situation. Therefore, there is no risk for this clause to be applied to any other organisation until other regions of the world embark in an integration process comparable to the one that began in Europe 56 years ago.

2) How would the EC be involved in discussions on financial matters?

The EC would not be involved in discussions addressing financial matters as we are not Members and therefore we do not have a say on how IPCC money is spent. As in the past, we could announce our voluntary financial contributions to the Panel.

3) What meetings exactly the EC wants to participate in?

The EC wants to participate in all meetings where scientific matters are being debated. Obviously, it is up to the Panel to decide on a case by case basis if we should be excluded from some particular meetings.

4) What are the legal or procedural implications for the EC Member States of a full participation as observer for the European Community? Would the EC Member States no longer speak on their behalf but only the EC for them? Would this imply coordinating scientific views?

There would be no change in the rights or obligations of any of the EC Member State before the Panel. The EC and its Member States do not generally speak with one voice before the Panel since we consider that it is important to preserve the pluralism of scientific voices in Europe. Coordination is only envisaged when policy decisions are to be taken and not when scientific views are expressed. Therefore, this proposal aims at further enriching the scientific debate in the IPCC by ensuring that the representative of the EC, and organisation that is very active in funding and promoting climate research and has a considerable expertise in this field, be able to properly and fully participate to the IPCC discussions. Moreover, the EC representative would NOT have a right to vote additional to the one of the EC Member States, in line with the approach reflected in the UNFCCC and in the Kyoto Protocol.

5) In which other UN bodies the EC has this specific status?

There are many instances in which the EC is recognised as full participant. Examples in the environmental field include the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF), UN global conferences, such as the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

6) Why is the EC not seeking membership of the Panel?

As explained in the answer to Q4 above, this initiative is not about gaining power before the Panel but just about finding a mechanism that would allow the EC to be fully associated with the Panel's discussions. In order to become a Member of the Panel, the EC would first have to become a Member of the WMO or of UNEP. This route would require following long and

rather cumbersome procedures both within the EC and before the WMO and UNEP while not offering added value compared to the EC objective presented here.

7) What is the legal basis of this change in the observer policy? Is this proposal really in line with the IPCC principles?

The proposal is perfectly in line with the IPCC principles and can be based, in particular, on Principle 8 which states that:

*"8. Invitations to participate in the sessions of the Panel and its Working Groups, Task Forces and IPCC workshops shall be extended to Governments **and other bodies** by the Chairman of the IPCC."*

This Principle is the basis for the admission of observers to the work of the IPCC. The exact modalities for the participation of observers are left to the Panel's discretion which was already exercised by developing the current Policy on observers. The EC clearly falls within the notion of 'other bodies' highlighted above.

8) What does the EC do to support the work of IPCC?

In recent years the EC has supported the IPCC secretariat in 2006 with a 200.000 € grant for the preparation of the 4th Assessment report. Another significant contribution of the EC to the finalisation of the AR4 of ca. 240.000€ was provided when the EC (co)-hosted the IPCC Working Group II meeting in Brussels in its premises from 2-6 April 2007 (the other co-host was the Belgian government). Furthermore, the EC is currently funding outreach actions with the aim to transfer the best available scientific knowledge from the IPCC AR4 to decision making in Africa and South East Asia.

9) What is the EC role in global EC climate relevant research?

The EC is a driver of climate change research at a global scale and the results of the projects supported under the EC Framework Programmes (FPs) have helped shaping IPCC reports. Key EU projects have been exploring the dynamics of climate change, its impacts and adaptation needs as well as in particular its economic dimensions. Only in the last 6 years more than 130 projects with an overall budget of 550 m € have been supported by the FP ranging from climate processes understanding and modelling to impacts, adaptation and mitigation. The results have significantly contributed, and will continue to do so, to the robust findings of the IPCC representing the most authoritative scientific reference and a truly global scientific consensus

The programme continues to be open for participation and funding of developing country participants. The climate change component of the current FP7 has been defined and developed in a way that solid support to the IPCC process is ensured. Consequently, funding of climate research under FP6 and FP7 is linked closely with IPCC, providing appropriate support to relevant scientific activities.

10) Which concrete research relevant for IPCC projects has been funded?

The importance the EC attaches to climate research is reflected in the funding of projects in the 5th and 6th EC research programme (FP5 and FP6) and continues in the current EC 7th Framework Research Programme, in which climate change remains a key element of the EC research funding (2007-2013).

Results from EC funded projects and actions help implementing international commitments, contribute to the IPCC assessment reports and address the research needs of existing and emerging policies. The research the EC supports addresses climate change observing systems, predictions, impacts, mitigation and adaptation measures and supports policy implementation.

The following projects address issues such as the identification of shortfalls between existing adaptation policy developments (ADAM¹); better quantification and reduction of uncertainties in downscaling methods and increasing confidence in scenarios and related impacts (PRUDENCE², ENSEMBLES³); the assessment of the impact of climate change on sectors like agriculture and water resources (CECILIA⁴, CLAVIER⁵, WATCH⁶); and the vulnerability of ecosystem services (ATEAM⁷). They also evaluate the consequences of climate change for the society and the economy of the populations (CIRCE⁸) at European and regional scales and assess health effects of extreme weather conditions (CCASHH⁹). EC funded research also pays considerable attention to the global dimension of Climate Change and adaptation. Projects like AMMA¹⁰ and GAINS-Asia¹¹ deal with aspects of adaptation outside Europe like the assessment of co-benefits, with economic impacts of concurrent reductions in air pollution and greenhouse gases for the Asian continent (GAINS-Asia); and with the impact of Climate Change as additional pressure on the vulnerability of agriculture systems in West Africa (AMMA). The importance given to research on improving management practices is reflected in the NeWater¹² Project which addresses some of the present and future challenges of water management.

The DAMOCLES¹³ project assesses the current reduction in arctic ice cover, its consequences and possible adaptation measures. With the EPICA¹⁴ project two Antarctic deep ice cores could be completed and for the first time revealed atmospheric records of greenhouse gases like CO₂ and methane reaching 800,000 years back in time. The ACCENT¹⁵ Network of Excellence facilitates a common European strategy for research into atmospheric composition change. The MAP¹⁶, OOMPH¹⁷ and EUCAARI¹⁸ projects address one of the main uncertainties in climate forcing – the role of natural and man made aerosols. New upcoming projects will address key uncertainties identified by IPCC in a targeted way. For instance, the stability of the Thermohaline circulation will be addressed as well the dynamics of glaciers and ice sheets as a key component of sea level rise.

This list is by no means exhaustive since also research projects in, i.a., the fields of energy, agriculture and transport are increasing the knowledge which can be used for adaptation to climate change.

¹ Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies: Supporting European climate policy

² Prediction of Regional Scenarios and Uncertainties for Defining European Climate Change Risks and Effects

³ ENSEMBLE based predictions of climate changes and their impacts

⁴ Central and Eastern Europe Climate Change Impact and Vulnerability Assessment

⁵ Climate Change and Variability: Impact on Central and Eastern Europe

⁶ Water and Global Change: Analysis, quantification and prediction of the components of the current and future global water cycle and related water resources

⁷ Advanced Terrestrial Ecosystem Analysis and Modelling

⁸ Climate Change and Impact Research: the Mediterranean Environment

⁹ Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies for Human Health

¹⁰ African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis

¹¹ Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies

¹² New Approaches to Adaptive Water Management under Uncertainty

¹³ Developing Arctic Modelling and Observing Capabilities for Long-Term Environmental Studies

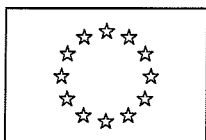
¹⁴ New Paleoreconstructions from Antarctic Ice and Marine Records

¹⁵ An European Network on Atmospheric Composition Change

¹⁶ Secondary Marine Aerosol Production from Natural Sources

¹⁷ Organics over the Ocean Modifying Particles in both Hemispheres

¹⁸ Aerosol Cloud Climate and Air Quality Interactions



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

The Director-General

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Pdc: IPCC

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Subject: Revised EC proposal for special observer status to the IPCC

Dear Dr. Pachauri,

Thank you very much for your letter of 26 May 2009, inviting the European Community (EC) to submit a revised proposal asking the IPCC to grant an enhanced observer status to the EC, following the discussions that took place at the 30th session of the Panel in Antalya, Turkey.

Taking into account the constructive comments we received in Antalya, in particular in the contact group that discussed this issue, I would like to provide a revised proposal and further information on some of the questions raised there.

The EC's current status in the IPCC is very limited. We are observers as any NGO. However, we believe that this arrangement, which pre-dates the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, is obsolete today for a number of reasons:

1) The special character of the European Community

The European Community has legal personality and is a Party in its own right to many international agreements, including the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. This is because the Member States of the European Community have conferred to it part of their sovereign powers, including on matters related to climate change, thereby making it a special actor in international law.

The specificity of the European Community has been recognised in a number of UN fora including the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the United Nations Forum on Forest and various UN global conferences under which enhanced observership has been granted. We believe that a similar approach is warranted also under the IPCC.

2) EC as key driver of international climate change research

Beside this unique legal character, the EC is also a key driver of the international climate research agenda. The EC is one of the main actors funding and driving forward international climate change research and has developed, over decades, a significant expertise and competence on scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of human-induced climate change. The EC's instrument for research and development – The Framework Program – recognises climate change as a key priority and is specially designed to promote and fund international research cooperation.

Only in the last 6 years, the Framework Program supported more than 130 projects - with an overall budget of 550 million €, ranging from climate processes and their modelling to the assessment of climate change impacts and the costs of response measures. These climate research activities are complemented by activities in the area of energy and transport research, which contribute to a better understanding of climate change mitigation potential through processes on energy efficiency, renewable energy, carbon capture and storage and green transport systems.

Our research activities are by no means limited to Europe: The current (7th) Framework Program for Research (2007-2013) is a truly international program - one of the biggest worldwide - with the involvement of 39 countries and open for participation to all countries. Furthermore, research institutes, universities and other partners from developing countries and emerging economies are eligible for funding.

Many of the key results in the current - 4th - IPCC Assessment Report, are based on the scientific output of international research projects funded under the Framework Programmes of the European Community. Some examples include projects such as EPICA, PRUDENCE, ENSEMBLES, DAMOCLES on which you will find more details in the annex to this note.

Currently, under the 7th Framework Program, a strong interdisciplinary climate change research programme is implemented with special emphasis on: quantification of climate change feedbacks; climate projections at both global and regional scale; quantification of climate change impacts on vulnerable ecosystems and key economic sectors; feasibility and related costs of adaptation and mitigation measures and policies in Europe and beyond. The scientific, societal and policy importance of these areas combined with our increased efforts to align deliverables of ongoing projects with the timetable of the 5AR, guarantee the maximum possible scientific contribution and relevance of EC funded projects to the IPCC 5AR, reaffirming our strong commitment to the IPCC.

Furthermore, the EC has been an observer since the inception of the panel and is a significant sponsor of the panel including by means of voluntary contributions to the IPCC budget and by funding outreach actions with the aim to inject the best available scientific knowledge from the IPCC 4AR report into policy processes and decision-making in Africa and South East Asia. Unfortunately, our current observer status has so far limited our capacity to share with the Panel our knowledge, experience and expertise arising from the above described activities.

3) Conclusion

For the above reasons, we consider it appropriate for the Panel to acknowledge the specific features and competences of the EC by providing us with a voice in the scientific and research debates held at the IPCC. Therefore, we reiterate our proposal to provide the EC with an enhanced observer status. Such status should provide us with the right to:

- a) speak in turn (rather than after all participant States have been acknowledged),
- b) reply, and
- c) introduce proposals.

The enhanced observer status will not grant to the European Community the right to vote on any matter or to be elected.

You will find enclosed a revised proposal and a set of *Q & As* addressing the main issues raised by some Members during the last meeting. We would like to thank you in advance for circulating the proposal and its supporting documents as part of the official documentation for, and well ahead of, the next Session.

Yours sincerely,



José Manuel SILVA RODRIGUEZ