Press release for immediate publication

“Ambitious Alliance Needed On Climate” From EU-CELAC Lawmakers
EU and Latin America, Caribbean Lawmakers Forging Paris #COP21 Positions

Brussels – 11th of June 2015. “This is a critical moment on the road to the Paris Climate Conference” says Klaus Linsenmeier, Director of Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union (hbs), the political foundation affiliated to the German Green Party. “Today’s EU-CELAC Summit Declaration lacks ambition. The EU and Latin America must join forces to ensure a fair, robust and ambitious climate agreement as the world rushes towards Paris in December.”

Today’s formal Declaration at the Brussels Summit of the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) calls for the strengthening of the bi-regional alliance ahead of COP21, but hbs says that isn’t enough.

“There is a fundamental difference between the EU-CELAC Summit Declaration¹, and last week’s Euro-Latin American Parliamentary (EuroLat) Urgent Resolution on Climate Change²,” says hbs Director Linsenmeier. “Heads of State and Government should listen carefully to their parliamentarians and incorporate the more ambitious EuroLat Resolution.”

“Today’s Summit Declaration recognises that the upcoming COP21 will be crucial in achieving an ambitious, transparent and legally-binding global climate agreement. EuroLat’s parliamentarians have shown them the way forward, how to agree joint positions in international climate negotiations, and how to enhance bi-regional dialogue and cooperation on climate change.”

A NEW PARADIGM

Emphasising the comparative strength of the EuroLat Resolution, Ernest Urtasun, Member of the European Parliament, from the Greens/EFA Group and Co-Rapporteur of the EuroLat text, says: “This Resolution underlines the importance of the search for a new paradigm of human well-being, a paradigm which reconciles the twin challenges of fighting climate change and enhancing equality and social cohesion.”

While EuroLat parliamentarian, Cecilia Castro Márquez, Ecuadorian Member of the Andean Parliament and Co-Rapporteur of the Urgent Resolution, expressed her satisfaction that the Resolution asks governments from both regions to reconsider the Yasuni-ITT Initiative, which consists of preserving, without exploitation, approximately 856 million barrels of petrol in the ecological reserve of the same name.
WIN-WIN MOMENTUM NEEDED

“For climate action to be effective it must be seen as just, and understood to be fair,” says Silvia Brugger, hbs Climate and Energy Programme Director, she comments that: “Achieving a win-win high-ambition alliance between EU and CELAC countries, one which treats adaptation and mitigation in a balanced manner, is of critical importance.”

Brugger adds that the political context of the EU-CELAC Summit lacks ambition by the Heads of State and Government. She says: “They have found common positions but seem to avoid much that is new. This is a time for boldness, which is why the recent EuroLat Resolution is now magnified in importance. Resolve is needed, a focus on the big picture, rather than narrow national interests.”

REAL CLIMATE ACTION, NOW

“Now, we call for concrete climate action in this bi-regional context,” says Brugger, adding: “New proposals in a Working Paper by the French think-tank IDDRI, together with hbs, address coastal management and climate resilience; cities; transforming energy systems; phasing out fossil fuels; fiscal reform and public services; tracking decarbonisation and resilience. The proposals are ‘Win-Win’ for Europe and CELAC. There must be progress before Paris; and in Paris, there must be action.”

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:
Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (hbs), is based in the Federal Republic of Germany with more than 30 offices worldwide.

Fostering democracy and upholding human rights, taking action to prevent the destruction of the global ecosystem, advancing equality between women and men, securing peace through conflict prevention in crisis zones, and defending the freedom of individuals against excessive state and economic power – these are the objectives that drive the ideas and actions of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung.

The Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung is part of the Green political movement that has developed worldwide as a response to the traditional politics of socialism, liberalism, and conservatism. Our main tenets are ecology and sustainability, democracy and human rights, self-determination and justice. We place particular emphasis on gender democracy, meaning social emancipation and equal rights for women and men. We are also committed to equal rights for cultural and ethnic minorities and to the societal and political participation of immigrants. Finally, we promote non-violence and proactive peace policies.

HASHTAGS:
Twitter: @boell_eu

#EU-CELAC Summit,

#COP21

PUBLICATIONS:

EuroLat Resolution, May 2015, ENGLISH

EuroLat Resolution, May 2015, SPANISH

hbs Publication “Europe and Latin America Towards More Ambitious Collective Climate Action” (in Spanish: “Europa y América Latina de cara a una acción colectiva más ambiciosa sobre el clima”)

BACKGROUND NOTES:
Letter by former presidents Lula and Lagos on a climate alliance with Europe

Climate Action Lima, Paris, Europe, Latin America, Fair and Ambitious
COP20, Lima

Time to Act

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i Brussels Declaration is titled: “Shaping our common future: working together for prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable societies for our citizens”

ii The Euro-Latin American Parliamentary (EuroLat) Urgent Resolution on Climate is titled: ‘The Europe-Latin America position on issues related to climate and climate change in the context of the Summit of 2015 in Paris (COP 21)’