

Federal Council for Sustainable Development (FRDO-CFDD)

Opinion on the national climate plan for Belgium(summary)

The proposed timing for this opinion – two weeks – is very limited. The council thinks this can be regarded as a lack of interest for the opinion of society, represented within the council, for these kind of very important issues. The council also clearly states that this document is not a plan: it is an overview of current policy measures from the different policy levels, already decided. There is no global vision on the future in the document. Never the less, this document can be a good base for the elaboration of a real plan.

The document also shows that the proposed measures are insufficient and sometimes not at all coordinated. Therefore the document does not respond to a question for a more integrated approach (between policy fields and between policy levels).

There is also no evaluation of the individual impact of each measure and there is no evaluation of the collective action to determine whether policy measures are coherent or are the correct measures to reach the set targets.

The FCSD deplors the lack of a coordinated strategic vision for the period after 2012. To face the challenges of climate change, it is necessary to fundamentally question our way of development and the relationship between industrial and developing countries.

Living to the EU engagements for 2020 and responding to the current economical crisis, offer an opportunity to reorient policies and investments toward SD. Within the economic reform programs from the EU and EU member states, including the relance plan of the Belgian federal government, the Climate Change issue should be fully integrated. This would be for Belgium a first concrete step towards a sustainable New Deal, like Ban Ki-Moon Secretary General of the UN mentioned in his speech on December 11th 2008 at Poznan.