

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker  
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Dear President Juncker

The European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC), which is the network of National Academies of Science of the EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland, would like to congratulate the Commission on its contribution to the success of the UNFCCC Conference in Paris (COP21).

EASAC, as you will recall, provided a briefing statement to inform the EU position ahead of the negotiations ([www.easac.eu/home/reports-and-statements/detail-view/article/easac-cop21.html](http://www.easac.eu/home/reports-and-statements/detail-view/article/easac-cop21.html)) in which we recommended that the Commission work towards an agreement to limit warming to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and we welcome the historic agreement in Paris "to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels" (Article 2a).

The Commission has made a major contribution to this positive outcome and the EU is expected to continue to display leadership in the implementation of COP21. EASAC welcomes the measures already underway in DG CLIMA and other Directorates General of the Commission to develop a range of options to implement the COP21 agreements.

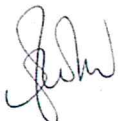
EASAC notes that to achieve the COP21 objectives, the Parties "aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as soon as possible ... so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHG in the second half of this century" (Article 4.1). This means that net GHG emissions need to be reduced to zero sometime between 2050 and 2100, after taking into account measures such as industrial-scale CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration.

The magnitude of the task ahead is still being assessed but will involve inter alia:

- challenging global targets for 2030 and beyond, that will require major transformations to energy systems, industrial production and land use beyond those currently planned;
- challenges for the development and deployment of new "negative emissions" technology to remove GHGs from the atmosphere in order to balance intractable emissions from sources such as aviation, sea transport and agriculture;
- challenges for science and technology, and for innovation in our industrial and social systems, to deliver the tools needed to achieve EU and global goals and aspirations.

EASAC recognizes that delivering on the COP21 commitments will be a formidable task, not only for the Commission but also for all sectors of society. EASAC which represents all of the national science academies of the EU, will therefore continue to provide independent science / evidence-based policy analyses on issues within the competencies of our energy, environment and bioscience programmes. We already enjoy close contacts with many of the related teams in the Commission following some of our previous studies (attached) and look forward to strengthening these in the future on specific issues where our independent analyses at EU level may be valuable to the Commission's activities.

Yours sincerely



Professor Jos W.M. van der Meer  
EASAC President

The affiliated network for Europe of



the global network of science academies

**Attachments:**

EASAC reports with a particular relevance to Commission activity related to energy and climate change (also available for download on our website [www.easac.eu](http://www.easac.eu)):

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Apr 2016	Greenhouse gas footprints of different oil feedstocks
Nov 2015	Commentary on "Circular Economy"
Oct 2015	Facing Critical decisions on climate change in 2015
Nov 2014	Shale gas extraction: issues of particular relevance to the EU
July 2014	Management of spent nuclear fuel and its waste
Dec 2013	Trends in Extreme Weather Events in Europe: Implications for national and European Union Adaptation Strategies
Jan 2013	EASAC statement on the Strategic Energy Technology Plan
May 2013	Carbon Capture and Storage in Europe
Dec 2012	The current status of biofuels in the European Union, their environmental impacts and future prospects