



In the European Parliament

Elena Espinosa has highlighted the fact that the Spanish Presidency will work to apply the Copenhagen Accord immediately

- The Spanish Minister of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs supports the EU using all instruments, both internal and in relations with third countries, to further strengthen the United Nations as a platform for dialogue and decision-making.

20 January 2010. The Spanish Minister of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, Elena Espinosa, appeared today before the plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg to report on the results of the recent Climate Summit held in Copenhagen, and the challenges the European Union as a whole and the Spanish Presidency of the EU are facing in the fight against climate change.

Elena Espinosa outlined the interest of the EU-27 to implement the content of the "Copenhagen Accord" without delay, in order to move forward quickly and efficiently with the international negotiation process in relation to the upcoming Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP16), that will be held in Mexico in November.

With regard to the Accord, the Minister pointed out that there is a common strategy at the heart of the EU for working towards its own greenhouse gas reduction targets, facilitating a global reduction that will guarantee that the planet's average temperature does not increase by more than 2 °C.

Espinosa stressed the importance of completing the formal communication process to inform the United Nations of the EU's commitment to reducing emissions before 31 January.



She said that it would be desirable if the number of countries and the strength of their commitments were as wide-ranging and ambitious as possible, in order to continue to progress further over the coming months with the work begun in January.

For Elena Espinosa, the Copenhagen Accord is a significant step that carries the personal involvement of a very considerable number of Heads of State and Government, and represents a political declaration at the very highest level on the commitment to reduce emissions, financial solidarity, technological cooperation and international transparency.

Furthermore, the Minister has shown her support that the EU uses all the instruments at its disposal, both internal as well as in relations with third countries, to further strengthen the United Nations as a platform for dialogue and decision-making from which the global challenges presented by the fight against climate change can be resolved, as the EU has been advocating.

Moreover, Elena Espinosa emphasised the importance of strengthening the European Union's leadership role within the new international context after the Copenhagen Summit, at which the major emerging economies declared their efforts to strengthen their national responses to climate change.

The Spanish Minister believes that the EU has the tools needed to strengthen this leadership role, such as the existence of a legislative package that has already been adopted at a Community level; a commitment at the highest level to make progress in the areas of emissions reductions, international solidarity and in innovation and technological cooperation, and an internal institutional structure which should be used to make the most of its synergies.

According to Elena Espinosa, for all of this, the Spanish Presidency wants to work closely with the Commission and with the European Parliament, to try to create the most advanced region in the fight against climate change,



with a smaller carbon footprint, better prepared to meet the challenges presented by climate change and more effective when it comes to making all of this a powerful driver of innovation and competitiveness.

