



Square de Meeûs, 18
1050, Brussels - Belgium

16 October 2015

Re: Aviation and shipping emissions in the draft Paris Agreement.

Dear Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres and Executive Director Achim Steiner

Copy Secretaries General Dr Fang Liu and Koji Sekimizu

We are extremely concerned to see that the draft Paris agreement published last week has dropped any reference to reducing emissions from international aviation and shipping. These sectors already have a climate impact equal to that of the UK and Germany respectively, and their emissions are expected to triple by 2050 unless immediate measures are introduced. Yet in the draft agreement they may as well not exist. The UNFCCC aim is to craft a climate agreement that limits a global temperature increase to 1.5/2 degrees. Excluding any requirement for these fast growing emitters to contribute their fair share to this effort will fatally undermine that objective.

After more than 20 years, there remains little progress in controlling emissions from these sectors. Even the IMO Secretary General now feels comfortable publically rejecting any need whatsoever to cap shipping emissions. ICAO promises ambition but is struggling to finalise and on time next year the limited measure it committed to in 2013. The absence of any mention of aviation and shipping in the Paris agreement will not only place no obligation on either sector to contribute to meeting the 1.5/2 degree target, but it will also be seen as a retreat from even the limited language contained in the Kyoto Protocol. Such an outcome would represent a clear failure of international climate governance.

The draft agreement states that there is "a need for universal and sustained action by all to respond to the urgent threat of climate change". Science agrees; all sectors must contribute given the fast diminishing carbon budget. At current rates of emissions, a budget compatible with the 2C goal will have been used up well before 2050. Parties are already subject to such a requirement and many of them, regardless of capacity, are coming forward with increasingly ambitious targets and measures of their own. But these efforts must not be undermined by special privileges to sectors that are well able to make a fair and adequate contribution. It is a fundamental question of equity, credibility and, ultimately, survival.

We call on you to help ensure that the language on aviation and shipping emissions in previous drafts is reinstated. Paris must contain an explicit requirement for emissions reduction targets for these sectors to be set and for ICAO and IMO to adopt sectoral measures that contribute fairly to limiting a temperature increase to 1.5/2 degrees. Both sectors should be encouraged to introduce a carbon price or levy on their fuel as a contribution to climate finance.

What the world needs from Paris is an agreement that charts our path to a low-carbon future. What the UN must not deliver is an agreement that says ambition for some, exemptions for others. Paris cannot mean that these international sectors remain fuel-tax and emissions-target free.

Best regards,



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On behalf of:

The International Coalition for Sustainable Aviation

The International Coalition for Sustainable Aviation (ICSA) is a network of non-governmental, non-profit advocacy organizations with millions of members concerned with the environmental impacts of air travel. ICSA is the environmental civil society organization accredited as an observer in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the UN body constituted to develop standards for the international civil aviation sector.

The Clean Shipping Coalition

The Clean Shipping Coalition (CSC) is the only international network of environmental organisations that focus exclusively on shipping issues. It promotes policies aimed at the protection and restoration of the marine and atmospheric environment that are consistent with the safe operation of ships, sustainable development, social and economic justice, and human health. The CSC has observer status at the IMO.

Surfrider Foundation Europe

Surfrider Foundation Europe is an environmental not-for-profit organisation which “aims at defending, saving, promoting and managing in a sustainable manner the ocean, the coastline, waves and the people who enjoy them”. Throughout its existence it has acquired strong environment skills and developed real expertise in environmental education. Having now gained recognition at European and international level, Surfrider has also become a key player in European influential networks on such matters.