

Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Aileen McLeod MSP

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Rob Gibson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Environment Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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7 October 2015

Dear Rob

I am writing to provide you with reports on the outcomes of the EU Environment Council which I attended in Brussels on 18 September 2015.

I attended the Environment Council as the Council agreed Council Conclusions on the EU's position for the Paris Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP21 to the UNFCCC).

On attending the Environment Council, I welcomed the roundtable discussion and compromise proposal put forward by the Luxembourg Presidency that was ultimately agreed upon by all Member States.

This agreement sets out the EU and Member States' priorities for the Paris agreement. Key aspects include the EU and Member States' arguing for a global deal that includes a long term goal for global decarbonisation, a solid framework of transparency rules and an effective mechanism of 5-yearly review for increasing the ambition of the agreement over time

I was particularly pleased that the EU will call for five-yearly reviews of the level of global ambition as part of the Paris agreement was included in the final text. Given that the EU pledge for a 40% emissions cut by 2030 is not as ambitious as Scotland's target, calling for a requirement on all parties to review their climate mitigation targets every five years - without falling behind previous levels of commitment – presents the opportunity for future increases in ambition to meet the below 2°C objective, based on the latest scientific evidence. With the EU position now agreed I hope we are able to obtain ambitious pledges from other Parties.

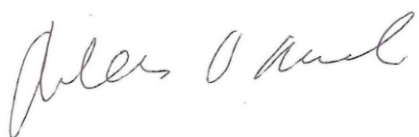
Prior to the Council I met with Amber Rudd, UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to discuss the handling of the Council meeting and to comment on the positive

narrative Scotland is continuing to have with our partners on climate ambition and delivery in the run up to the Paris climate conference.

In addition to the formal Council business I also attended the Green Growth Summit which facilitated opportunities to highlight the good story Scotland has to tell with regard to our Climate ambitions. In particular, I had the opportunity to meet with Mr Miguel Arias Cañete, EU Commissioner for Energy and Climate Change, and the Moroccan Minister for Environment, Ms Hakima El Haite.

I am copying this letter to the Convener of the European and External Relations Committee, for information.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Aileen McLeod', written in a cursive style.

AILEEN MCLEOD