



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The Minister

Commisioner Miguel Arias Cañete
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstrat 200
1049 Brussel
Belgium

Your ref

Our ref
15/471

Dato
19th June 2015

Dear Commissioner Mr. Arias Cañete,

The Norwegian government is pleased to submit a written response to the Commission's public consultation on the integration of agriculture, forestry and other land use in the climate target for the 2021-2030 period. In addition to this letter presenting Norwegian views on the land use sector, we have also submitted our contribution to the online consultation questionnaire.

The background for our view is that the IPCC has clearly shown that enhanced climate action in forestry, agriculture and land use is important for achieving our common goal of limiting global warming to below two degrees. Biomass as a source of renewable energy is expected to grow in importance as part of transition to more renewable energy in general. Production of sustainable biofuels is expected to increase in importance. According to the fifth assessment report of the IPCC, modern bioenergy must be deployed almost a fivefold in the period 2015-2100 to meet the 2 degree target in a cost effective manner. This affects both forestry and agriculture. There is an untapped potential for substituting emission intensive materials with biomass and wood products, without reducing carbon stocks in the forestry and land use sector.

Possible conflicting incentives between agriculture, forestry and other land use should be avoided in the future rule set for the climate commitment of the EU.

In our view, the rule set should promote common approaches that can work according to varying national circumstances. To maintain food security while fully exploiting the mitigation potential of different land uses, optimizing the protection of nature and biodiversity and providing a basis for green growth and rural development is of importance for Norway.

From Norway's perspective, the principle basis for the future accounting framework for forests and other land use is that the inclusion of this sector does not influence the overall ambition level. Deforestation and afforestation should be fully accounted for also in the future. A new regime should also facilitate the opportunities that forest management can provide for climate measures, both in the short and the long term.

Without new measures, the forest's role as a carbon sink should not prevent emission reduction measures in other sectors, which in case could lower the overall ambition level. The rule set needs to give incentives for new measures in the land sector while ensuring that incentives for low emission development in other sectors remain high, and can be strengthened. Norway also supports moving towards a more comprehensive coverage of sources and sinks of greenhouse gases, as this will reflect better the need for taking full climate responsibility as well as making use of all opportunities for climate measures.

Increased efforts to develop carbon capture and storage technologies for biomass is important, both towards 2030 and 2050. If such technologies should be able to contribute to the two-degree target, research must be stepped up in this area.

Land use and forestry is important to Norway as well as in the global context of mitigation actions.

I look forward to continuing a dialogue on this issue, in conjunction with collective delivery of the climate target for Norway and the EU.

Yours sincerely,



Tine Sundtoft