



## MINISTERSTWO ENERGII

Warsaw, November 13th, 2018

### **Position of the Ministry of Energy for the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) on 3-14 December 2018 in Katowice**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) will be held in Katowice on December 3-14, this year.
2. Once again, Poland took the trouble to organize a climate summit. It will be a breakthrough summit that can set climate policy directions for many decades and its impact can be multigenerational. This historic event will take place in Silesia, in Katowice.
3. The success of COP24 requires the widespread participation of all parties, not only the European Union (which will not prevent climate change alone, with its responsibility for only approx.. 10% of global emissions). It is expected that the negotiating Parties will show a mature approach to the climate policy.
4. Poland is against increasing the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets adopted by the EU by 2030, as this will have a negative impact on the power sector as well as the entire Polish economy. It should be noted that this would cause a further rise in electricity prices, and thus could lead to an increase in energy poverty, an industry escape, including the energy-intensive, beyond Poland and the EU, as well as an increase in unemployment.
5. The draft EU long-term strategy should take into account the impact of the climate policy on the regions and countries most dependent on coal, and propose relevant actions and support for the areas in order to ensure their fair transformation into less coal-dependent economies.
6. For some countries, the path to achieve national emission reduction targets in the long-term horizon will be much less severe, as compared to a number of other countries. This should be taken into account to a large extent when creating a climate strategy.
7. Poland will share at COP24 its experience in the field of innovation and financial mechanisms that will help achieve pro-environmental development of the country.

One of its conditions is the balancing of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with the absorption of carbon dioxide by ecosystems, so as to stop the growth, stabilize and then reduce the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

8. Poland will present its position in the area of the development and implementation of innovative technologies, including those that use the potential of electric vehicles. The dissemination of electromobility is needed to ensure a positive impact conditioning the development of modern technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
9. During COP24 Poland will create the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience in the field of hydrogen technologies. The implementation of projects related to fuel cells can contribute to the development of ecological transport, which will allow for a significant reduction of emissions of harmful substances to the environment.
10. In its Conclusions of 18 October 2018, the European Council gave Poland full support in the organization of COP24 in Katowice. Poland emphasized that the priority of COP24 should be the adoption of rules implementing the Paris Agreement, as a guarantee for further actions. The Talanoa Dialogue, on the other hand, will contribute to even greater cooperation of the Parties and exchange of experience in the fight against climate change.

## II. Position of the Ministry of Energy

1. The Ministry of Energy is of the opinion that the fight against climate change should be a global and solidary effort, which takes into account the need to preserve the competitiveness of national economies and their sovereignty in shaping energy mixes, as well as the technological neutrality in the context of promoting individual sources of energy production.
2. Article 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) indicates that **each country can independently decide on its energy mix**. Poland is making great efforts to fulfill its obligations regarding renewable energy sources, is very advanced in terms of energy efficiency and reducing energy intensity and undertakes significant efforts to meet its obligations with respect to it.
3. At the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25), an in-depth **analysis of environmental decisions taken over the last 25 years** will be needed to answer the question: whether the expenditure for implementing specific climate policy directions is commensurate with the achieved effects? The imposition of stringent climatic requirements translates directly into the competitiveness of the economy, including the transfer of jobs to other parts of the world. Such economic events, in turn, are unfavorable for the labor market, the wealth of citizens or the development of the EU industry.
4. Polish industry takes up a number of actions in the field of environmental protection. The needs of the energy-intensive industry can be secured by conventional energy carriers (including coal) and in accordance with the EU regulations, the price reduction system used to purchase energy, as in other Member States, and the living needs by RES (biomass, geothermal energy and hydropower).
5. The economies of countries that are particularly dependent on the production and use of fossil fuels should not be assessed solely through the prism of the fuels, nor the market discriminated against.
6. The implementation of climate policy objectives must be based on the **profit and loss balance and the use of innovative technologies**, including enabling the use of fossil fuels in a more effective and environmentally friendly way (including the development of cogeneration and clean coal technologies). This policy can not cause the loss of the competitiveness of the industry or extend the sphere of energy poverty. The EU import dependence on fossil fuels (hard coal, lignite, oil, natural gas) increased from 52% in 1990 to 74% in 2016. In 2017, 173 million tons of coal was imported into the EU, which means moving approx. 700 thousand jobs beyond the EU and the transfer of nearly 13 billion euros.
7. Since 1998, greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector have decreased by more than 33%, and the efficiency of coal blocks since 2000 has increased by 10% in Poland, an increase in the efficiency of the power plant by 1% results in CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2-3%.
8. Policies and measures aimed at preventing climate change should be effective and provide universal benefits at the lowest possible price, which means using all of the available low- and zero-emission technologies, including nuclear energy.

9. The discussion conducted around the issue of reducing emissions, should also be directed to the dialogue on **increasing CO2 development and absorption** (e.g. reduction of CO2 emissions as a result of the increase in greenhouse gas absorption by agricultural soils, forests, forests and peatlands). Emission reduction means improving the air quality. The increase in absorption is also an increase in soil productivity or the protection of biodiversity.
10. **Poland pursues objectives related to ensuring energy security** on the basis of domestic energy resources (hard coal, lignite, oil, natural gas), Polish RES resources (biomass, geothermal energy, hydro and wind energy - also marine) and modern zero emission technologies such as, for example, nuclear energy.  
The task of the Minister of Energy is to guarantee safe (with guaranteed access) and clean energy at an acceptable price. No source alone fulfills all of the conditions, hence there is the need for rational shaping the energy mix of various sources so that, bearing in mind also the conditions of the transmission network condition, to accomplish this task in an optimal manner. Hence the need for developing low-emission sources, but also stable sources, while managing the costs of network expansion. The Ministry of Energy creates favorable conditions for a profitable, effective and modern hard coal mining sector, based on cooperation, knowledge and innovation.
11. Diversification of energy supply means an increase in energy security. The more suppliers there are and the more competitive they are, the greater the security of supply for Poland. Each energy carrier must be treated equally, economies of the countries that are particularly dependent on the production and use of fossil fuels should not be discriminated against on the market.
12. It is important that the COP24 objectives also emphasize the need to maintain technological neutrality in the selection of low-emission technologies for generating electricity by individual Parties to the Convention, while maintaining the possibility of choosing the path to achieve the climate goals of the given state.
13. The Minister of Energy is in favor of the evolutionary transformation of the power sector, instead of drastic restrictions on the use of fossil fuels. In this context, it seems justified to present the energy policy of Poland together with the outline of the transformation of the Polish power industry in the years 1990-2018-2040, with particular emphasis on the energy mix, coal consumption forecasts, emissions and the development of alternative fuels market during the COP24 negotiations. In this context, during the Conference of the Parties, it will be possible to present the path of CO2 emission reduction, stressing Polish achievements with respect to the issue.
14. The Ministry of Energy is in favor of recognizing natural gas as a low-carbon energy source serving the purposes of sustainable development. It is advisable for the overriding aims of climate policy to be able to be implemented by supporting infrastructure investments. The promotion of alternative fuels in transport and support for the further development of renewable energy sources will have a real impact on the implementation of climate objectives.
15. The Ministry of Energy takes the view that there is the need for conducting promotional activities and supporting the development of the electromobility sector as well as the developing and improving hydrogen technologies as an alternative fuel.

It should also be emphasized that the development of energy storage technologies both in Poland and in the European Union requires further actions of a legislative nature and the consistent strengthening of international cooperation in this area.

16. Nuclear energy contributes significantly to the reduction of the energy sector emissions, being the least emission technology (zero-emission technology, nuclear energy does not produce harmful dusts or gases). The impact of nuclear energy on the suppression of climate change has been noticed in numerous publications, including in the last Global Warming of 1.5 ° C report developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Pursuant to the above-mentioned report, the share of nuclear energy is significantly increased in all scenarios aimed at stopping the temperature increase below 1.5 ° C. The use of it can significantly contribute to the reduction of the energy sector's emissions to the environment, and thus to the fight against climate change. Nuclear power plants ensure the security and independence of the state, as well as the country's civilization and scientific development, while supporting the competitiveness of the economy by guaranteeing stable and predictable energy prices.
17. Supporting the development of nuclear energy, which is a stable zero-emission source of electricity generation, is part of the objectives set out in the Paris Agreement, and supports the image of Poland as a country involved in the sustainable transformation of the energy sector.