

<b>Lead Topic: Topical Issues</b>	<b>Sub-Topic: Forthcoming Negotiations on a World Agreement on Climate Change (Paris, December)</b>	<b>Contact: Georgina Hughes- Elders Ext: 669 6314</b>
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### **FAST FACTS**

- Climate change is one of the key challenges of this century. It is the considered view of most experts world-wide that failure to address the challenge effectively at a global level will result in major adverse impacts that will affect all countries.
- The upcoming UN led-negotiations in Paris in December seeks to agree a new legally binding agreement on climate change applicable to all.
- The EU, as a single entity, has already agreed (at the October 2014 European Council) a target of at least 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990).
- The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government is the lead negotiating Department for Ireland in terms of the climate change agenda.

### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

#### **Q: What is COP21?**

- COP21 is the 21st Conference of the Parties (i.e. 195 States and one regional economic integration organisation) to the UN Framework convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It takes place in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015.

#### **Q. What Will Happen at Paris?**

- Parties to the UNFCCC aim to conclude negotiations – which have been on-going throughout 2015 - on a legally binding agreement on climate change that will be applicable to all Parties.
- The Paris agreement (and supporting decisions) should provide:-
  - an enabling platform for all Parties to pursue low-carbon, climate-resilient sustainable development
  - a world-wide collective pathway to limit the average global temperature increase to less than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

#### **Q: Will New Emission Reduction Targets for Ireland be agreed in Paris?**

- No.
- The EU submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), i.e. its planned contribution to the global effort on 6 March 2015. The EU's INDC is based on the target agreed at the October 2014 European Council of at least 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990).
- Member State shares of that target have yet to be determined. That process will take place within the EU in 2016 as part of the negotiations on the EU 2030 Climate Energy Package (EU 2030).
- The Department of Environment, Community & Local Government is the lead negotiating Department for Ireland.

