



Rt. Hon Chris Huhne MP  
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Dear Chris,

I was glad to have a chance for a brief word with you about the post-Copenhagen negotiations when we met at the Foreign Secretary's recent reception for the Diplomatic Corps, and to hear a bit about the new government's approach.

I am writing to you now in my capacity as Chair of the United Nations Association of the UK (UNA-UK). UNA-UK has been a consistent supporter of the need to take decisive action to counter climate change. We were deeply disappointed at the outcome of last December's Copenhagen Conference which seems to us to have been wholly inadequate to deal effectively with the global challenge we all face. We therefore attach the greatest importance to the resumption of the UN negotiations which has now begun and to this making substantial progress by the time of the next ministerial meeting at Cancún in December.

We believe that it is essential for these negotiations to reach a legally binding outcome, whether through one or more agreements, if the action being taken by the international community is to be sustainable and sufficient over the very considerable period of time that will be required to meet the climate change challenge. The commitments made at Copenhagen seem to us not only inadequate but also, because they are not legally binding, unlikely to stand the test of time. For the same reasons we consider that it will be essential to have a fully international system of monitoring and verification of the commitments entered into. We would like to see the European Union come forward at an early stage with proposals for such a system. We appreciate that neither of these objectives will be easy to achieve but we would hope that you can confirm the new government and the EU's commitment to achieving them.

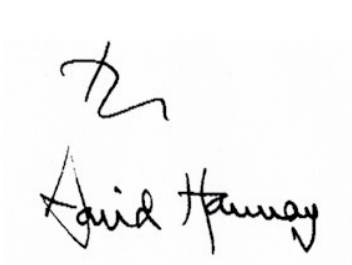
We welcome the support the new government is giving to keeping on the negotiating table the European Union's offer to move to a 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 should others do likewise. Given that the 30% target (like the 20% one to which the EU is committed unconditionally) is, as a consequence of the recession, less demanding than it was when it was first put forward, we would urge that it be pressed with determination.

We are deeply concerned that public support for action against climate change is showing some signs of weakening. We believe that such action is no less necessary and urgent than it was before the recession. And we note that the enquiries made into the research work underpinning the case for action have confirmed the validity of that

research even if there were some well-publicised errors in its public presentation. We urge the government to undertake a renewed campaign to set out the facts which justify taking action against climate change and to gain support for the decisions that will be needed at the national level if we are to play our full part, as we should do, in a wider international effort.

I hope you can give our members a picture of the new government's policies on all these matters and of the measures you intend to take to honour the commitments Britain and the EU have already entered into.

I am sending a copy of this letter to William Hague.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'H' above the full name 'David Hannay'.

Lord Hannay of Chiswick  
Chair, UNA-UK