

Statements of President Barroso ahead of the European Council of 10-11 December 2009

Speaking in Bonn at the EPP Congress, President Barroso stressed the need to restore Europe's social market economy and deliver an ambitious agreement in Copenhagen on Climate change next week. President Barroso stated:

Restoring Europe's social market economy through EU 2020

"The crisis, caused partly by greedy and reckless behaviour, shows that you cannot have a strong economy without moral values. Equally, we need a strong economy to give real effect to solidarity.

Modernising Europe's social market economy has been at the centre of my first Commission's work, through the Lisbon Strategy. We have made progress. My second Commission will build on that through the EU 2020 Strategy.

To restore our social market economy to health, we must do the three things at the centre of my outline of the EU 2020 strategy.

First, invest in new sources of knowledge-based growth. That means improving education, helping business to boost innovation and delivering a real online single market.

Second, empower people in inclusive societies. Workers need support to acquire and update their skills in a fast-changing globalised economy. We need faster progress towards implementing the flexicurity principles.

Third, a competitive, connected and greener economy. We need a new industrial policy to bolster modern manufacturing. We need an EU-wide smart energy grid. We need to use tax reform, subsidies and loans, public investment and procurement. A particular emphasis must be put on SMEs as most important economic operators.

We are going to discuss this strategy in the European Council and with the European Parliament and agree it at the Spring European Council.

Climate / Copenhagen

We are approaching the moment of truth at Copenhagen.

I'm encouraged by the commitment of over 100 leaders to attend Copenhagen. The growing readiness to put some concrete numbers on the table is also encouraging.

I will continue to push for an agreement that is science-based, global and ambitious and aims at limiting climate change to 2°C.

I want a simple, understandable and clear text that is politically binding on all countries while reflecting our common but differentiated responsibilities.

We won't get a Treaty, that is clear, but we have to light the pathway to a legal

agreement that will respect the 2 degrees limit.

Leaders can discuss, but we cannot negotiate with science or with the two degree target.

The question is: is this momentum going to be enough to bring the right level of offers to the table?

Honestly, only time will tell, but my acid test for Copenhagen is not whether there will be numbers but whether each major player has gone to the outer limits of their capacity, whether we have reached the highest level of ambition possible".