

International climate change negotiations 28 November – 9 December, Montreal.

This was the first formal round of talks since the Kyoto Protocol entered into force in February 2005 (COP/MOP1), and was combined with the annual Ministerial level 'COPs' under the Framework Convention (Eleventh Conference of the Parties, COP 11).

Negotiations finished at 7 a.m. (local time) on Saturday 10 December, after an all night session on the final text. The outcome is generally good in terms of keeping political momentum in the Convention process and, importantly, the Kyoto Protocol – which reaches the end of its first Commitment Period in 2012. This round of talks had to consider what would take place after 2012.

Highlights

- there will be a process for reviewing industrialised countries' obligations under Kyoto Protocol for the post-2012 period. This will start immediately (first meeting of this reporting process next May);
- the aim to have its results adopted 'as early as possible and in time to ensure that there is no gap between the first and second commitment periods'.
- 'long term co-operative process beyond 2012 confirmed.
- There were also decisions that related to the workings of the Clean Development Mechanism - more detail early next week.

The US have confirmed they will be part of the dialogue but without any commitment to any outcome at this stage.

A business statement to the Conference Plenary on Friday 9th December was read on behalf of the four Business Council's (UK/US/Australia + EU) and London Climate Change Services, supported subsequently by the Climate Group. This received good feedback.