



BELGIUM SUPPORTS THE CANDIDACY OF PROFESSOR JEAN-PASCAL VAN YPERSELE FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF IPCC

28/02/14 – Based on a proposal by Belgium Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders, State Secretary for Science Policy Philippe Courard, State Secretary for Environment Melchior Wathelet and State Secretary for Sustainable Development Servais Verherstraeten, the Council of Ministers decided to support the future candidature of Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele for the position of Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at the next elections of the IPCC Bureau. These elections should be held during the third quarter of 2015.

The IPCC (www.ipcc.ch) was first established in 1988 by two United Nations organizations, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as a follow-up to the first World Climate Conference (1979). The IPCC's raison d'être comes from the fact that climate change is a complex topic and that policy makers must have access to objective and policy-relevant scientific information. The IPCC Assessment Reports constituted a very important basis for the preparation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), of the Kyoto Protocol, and for the preparations of post-Kyoto agreements. By receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, the IPCC's work gained recognition at the highest level.

Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele has been Vice-chair of IPCC since 2008. His expertise as a climate scientist is internationally recognized. He is also very much interested in sustainable development and the socio-economic aspects of climate change. He has shown a great ability to build consensus, either inside IPCC or at the Federal Council for Sustainable Development, where he has been chairing for 16 years the « Energy & Climate » Working Group. His scientific expertise and his knowledge of IPCC allowed him on many occasions to propose solutions and compromises acknowledged by everybody.

His work as IPCC Vice-chair is remarkable. Under his impulse, many

initiatives have been launched and some aspects of the operation of the IPCC have received special attention, like inter-sectorial issues, the communication strategy, increased participation of experts from developing countries, the elaboration of new scenarios for the future, the scholarship programme for PhD students from Least Developed Countries, etc.

For all these reasons, Belgium is proud to support the candidacy of Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele for the prestigious position of IPCC Chair. The government decision will allow to notify this Belgian candidacy and to begin the intense preparation it requires.