

EU states to be asked to ratify climate deal in June

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"1.5 Degrees" in white neon is lit on the Eiffel Tower in the French capital during the COP21 United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015

EU member states will be asked collectively to ratify the landmark Paris agreement to fight climate change within two weeks, French environment minister Segolene Royal said Thursday.

Experts say the world's fast-track ratification of the Paris Agreement

clinched in December would help push the UN forum sponsoring the deal to flesh out the rules and procedures needed to move forward.

The European Commission, the EU executive, will ask environment ministers from the 28 member states to ratify the [climate deal](#) when they meet in Luxembourg on June 20, Royal said after talks with Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker.

She expected a proposal to be submitted next week for the meeting's agenda. The European Parliament will then have to ratify it.

"The ratifications will accelerate. There is an extremely positive realisation that is being expressed today," according to Royal, the co-chair with Morocco of the negotiating process.

Royal also urged the member states to present a timetable for ratification in their own national parliaments.

The EU negotiated the Paris [agreement](#) on behalf of its member states, committing to reduce [greenhouse gas emissions](#) by 40 percent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

But intense negotiations are now expected among member states to decide how each country will realise the overall objective.

The Paris Agreement will take effect after it is ratified by at least 55 countries that account for at least 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

These countries will then be legally bound by it.

The Paris pact calls for capping global warming at well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and 1.5 C (2.7 F) if possible.

The accord—which could enter into force later this year, far sooner than expected—sets ambitious goals for capping [global warming](#) and funnelling trillions of dollars to poor countries facing an onslaught of climate damage.

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