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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: US rejects G-7 pledges on climate efforts and aid

By Sara Stefanini

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BOLOGNA, Italy — The U.S. refused today to sign up to a joint G-7 environment statement that said it was committed to reducing its carbon dioxide emissions or any section on climate change and multilateral development banks.

The communiqué adopted by G-7 environment ministers includes a footnote stating that the U.S. will continue to engage with "key international partners" in a way that is consistent with its domestic priorities — a "strong" economy and a "healthy" environment. But not much else.

"We the United States of America continue to demonstrate through action, having reduced our CO2 footprint as demonstrated by achieving pre-1994 CO2 levels domestically," the footnote said.

"We the United States do not join those sections of the communiqué on climate and [multilateral development banks], reflecting our recent announcement to withdraw and immediately cease implementation of the Paris agreement and associated financial commitments," the footnote continued.

The other six countries backed the Paris agreement's goals for limiting global warming and efforts to ramp up measures before 2020 and the need to shore up more bilateral and multilateral climate finance. They said they will continue to work with the U.S. but that they are plowing ahead with commitments made under the Paris agreement.

"The Paris agreement is the only framework in which the fight against climate change can take place, it is irreversible, there is no doubt about it," France's Environment and Energy Minister Nicolas Hulot told reporters today.

This article first appeared on POLITICO.EU on June 12, 2017.

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