

To: Dravis, Samantha[dravis.samantha@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Fri 5/26/2017 6:17:08 PM
Subject: Cohn: Trump's views on Paris climate deal are 'evolving'

By Andrew Restuccia

05/26/2017 02:10 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's stance on the Paris climate change agreement is evolving after discussing the issue with world leaders at the G-7 summit in Italy, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn said Friday.

"I think his views are evolving. He came here to learn. He came here to get smarter," Cohn told reporters in Italy. Cohn also said Trump "feels much more knowledgeable on the topic today."

Trump told the G-7 leaders on Friday that he cares about the environment but is concerned about the potential economic impacts of the Paris climate change agreement on the United States.

Trump "listened acutely" to arguments by heads of state that the United States should remain in the Paris agreement, Cohn said.

"He reiterated his views on the environment. He did say, 'The environment is very, very important to me, Donald Trump. I care a lot about the environment,'" Cohn said, quoting the president and adding, "He didn't want anyone to think he didn't care about the environment."

Trump told G-7 leaders that he was concerned that the United States is falling behind India and China in terms of manufacturing and he didn't want to do anything to put the U.S. at a disadvantage.

Pressed by world leaders about when he'll make a final decision on Paris, Cohn quoted Trump, saying, "This is something where I want to get to the right decision. I'd rather take my time."

The text of the expected joint communique is still being written, Cohn said.

"His basis for his decision is ultimately going to be what's best for the United States," Cohn said.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/05/cohn-trumps-views-on-paris-climate-deal-are-evolving-088359>

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To: Dravis, Samantha[dravis.samantha@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Fri 5/26/2017 12:47:03 PM
Subject: Cohn: Trump ready to hear out European leaders on Paris deal

By Eric Wolff

05/26/2017 08:40 AM EDT

President Donald Trump is listening to European leaders as he continues to deliberate over whether to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn said today.

"I think he's leaning to understand the European position," Cohn said, according to a pool report. "Look as you know from the U.S., there's very strong views on both sides. Both sides are running ads. So he knows that in the U.S. there's very strong opinions on both sides, but he also knows that Paris has important meaning to many of the European leaders. And he wants to clearly hear what the European leaders have to say."

Trump is in Italy today for a two-day meeting of the G-7 leaders. The heads of state from Canada, the U.K., France, Japan, Italy, and Germany will likely dedicate some of their time with Trump to persuading him to stay in the Paris agreement.

Trump's advisers are split over whether he should pull out of the Paris deal or remain part of the agreement while trying to renegotiate the U.S. emissions-reduction pledge.

WHAT'S NEXT: The White House has said Trump would likely make a decision on the agreement after he got home next week.

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To: Dravis, Samantha[dravis.samantha@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Fri 4/28/2017 1:07:14 PM
Subject: Trump: Paris climate deal 'not a fair situation'

By Andrew Restuccia

04/28/2017 08:45 AM EDT

President Donald Trump said Thursday that he believes the United States is getting a raw deal under the Paris climate change agreement.

In an [interview](#) with Reuters, Trump said countries like China, Russia and India aren't forking over enough money to help poorer countries cope with the effects of climate change.

"It's not a fair situation because they are paying virtually nothing and we are paying massive amounts of money," he said in the interview.

Wealthy nations have pledged to mobilize \$100 billion a year starting in 2020 to help poorer countries deal with climate change. The United States paid \$1 billion to the Green Climate Fund over the last two years, one-third of the total \$3 billion then-President Barack Obama pledged to contribute. But the Trump administration, backed by Republicans in Congress, has called for eliminating funding for climate finance.

China, meanwhile, announced in 2015 that it would spend \$3.1 billion on climate finance.

As [POLITICO reported](#), Trump's advisers couldn't come to a consensus during a Thursday meeting on a recommendation to Trump about how to approach Paris. But there is growing agreement among Trump's top advisers that they want better terms if the U.S. stays.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and White House aides Jared Kushner, Ivanka Trump and Steve Bannon all attended Thursday's meeting, administration officials said.

WHAT'S NEXT: Trump's advisers are slated to meet again in early May to discuss the Paris deal, and the president said he'll make a decision in "about two weeks" ahead of the G-7 summit in Italy.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/04/trump-paris-climate-deal-not-a-fair-situation-086953>

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