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Subject: Arias Cañete: Trump's announcement 'has galvanized us'

By Kalina Oroschakoff and Sara Stefanini

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Those that remain part of the Paris climate agreement will be "on the right side of history," Miguel Arias Cañete, the European commissioner for energy and climate action, said today after President Donald Trump announced he will withdraw the U.S. from the deal.

"We all see the Paris agreement as the growth engine of our economies, the key to protect our planet," Arias Cañete said. "Today is a sad day for the global community, as a key partner turns its back on the fight against climate change."

Trump said he will seek to either re-negotiate the Paris accord or agree a new deal. "We will see that we will make a deal that is fair."

Arias Cañete countered that the deal is "fit for purpose" and "allows each party to forge its own path." The treaty is "an unprecedented multilateral partnership between nearly 200 countries."

The EU will strengthen its "existing partnerships and seek new alliances from the world's largest economies to the most vulnerable island states," he added. "Today's announcement has galvanized us rather than weakened us, and this vacuum will be filled by new broad committed leadership."

Former President Barack Obama also criticized Trump's decision, saying he believes the U.S. should be at the front of the pack in tackling climate change.

"The nations that remain in the Paris agreement will be the nations that reap the benefits in jobs and industries created," he said.

It will take four years to exit the Paris agreement.

This article first appeared on POLITICO.EU on June 1, 2017.

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