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By Rob Taylor and Daniel Stacey

## Ukraine Crisis Casts Shadow Over G-20

Putin Leaves Summit Early, Host Australia Loses Battle to Keep Climate Off Agenda

### *Криза в Україні кидає тінь на G-20*

*Путін покидає саміт раніше, питання клімату випали з порядку денного  
Австралійської зустрічі*

*Криза в Україні кинула тінь на міжнародний саміт в Брізбані, Австралія, який президент Росії Володимир Путін покинув завчасно зіткнувшись с закидами від лідерів країн стосовно ролі Москви в бойових діях. Пан Путін морозний прийом отримав від багатьох колег, зокрема прем'єр-міністра Канади Стівена Харпера, який сказав Путіну "вийти з України". Президент США Барак Обама сказав, що він провів "ділові та тупі" переговори з паном Путіним у кулуарах саміту та заявив, що Росія залишатиметься в економічній ізоляції поки продовжуватиме порушувати міжнародне право, надаючи важке озброєння сепаратистам в Україні.*

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/g-20-leaders-agree-to-tackle-climate-change-1416107885>



*Mr. Putin was the first world leader to leave the G20 summit Sunday. G20 Australia/Reuters*

BRISBANE, Australia—The crisis in Ukraine cast a shadow over an international summit here, with Russian President Vladimir Putin leaving early after facing rebuke from fellow leaders over Moscow’s role in the fighting.

Mr. Putin, the first leader to depart the weekend summit, cited the long flight home from Australia as the reason for his early exit and not the frosty reception he received from many counterparts—including Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper , who told Mr. Putin to “get out of Ukraine.” He didn’t stay for the release of the Group of 20 industrial and developing nations’ closing statement, which outlined over 800 economic commitments by individual countries, including a broad agreement for new carbon-reduction targets.

President Barack Obama , who said he held “businesslike and blunt” talks with Mr. Putin on the sidelines of the meeting, said Russia would remain in economic isolation while it continued to violate international law by providing heavy arms to separatists in Ukraine.

“We would prefer a Russia that is fully integrated with the global economy. But we are also very firm on the need to hold core international principles,” Mr. Obama said. “And one of those principles is that you don’t invade other countries or finance proxies and support them in ways that break up the country. At this point the sanctions that we have in place are biting plenty good,” the president said.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has blamed Moscow for the apparent collapse of a cease-fire agreement between Ukraine and pro-Russian rebels in the country’s east.

Ms. Merkel and Mr. Putin spoke at length on the sidelines of the G-20. Over the weekend, Moscow expelled a German diplomat in retaliation for Germany’s ordering the departure of a suspected Russian spy—an unusually aggressive response by Russia. Der Spiegel magazine, which reported the news Saturday, said that in comparable past cases Russia hadn’t responded with an expulsion.

In the summit’s closing statement Sunday, world leaders agreed on measures to lift global growth by 2.1% over five years through a mix of reforms and new infrastructure projects.

Climate change also made its way into the document after European and U.S. leaders lined up against resource-rich Australia and Saudi Arabia to force the issue onto the agenda. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott once described climate-change science as “crap,” and his conservative government in July repealed a pioneering tax on carbon emissions, hampering international efforts to coordinate on global warming.

More on G-20

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The wording of the G-20 document, while not going as far on climate change as European and U.S. backers hoped, called for nations to unveil new carbon-reduction targets ahead of a global climate summit in Paris next year.

Major economies will also be encouraged to contribute to an international Green Climate Fund to help developing nations deal with climate change. Japan on Sunday pledged \$1.5 billion to the climate fund, which has already received pledges from the U.S., Germany, France and other donors and aims to raise \$10 billion.

The climate talks gained momentum after Mr. Obama and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Wednesday unveiled substantial new commitments to curb greenhouse-gas emissions, with China agreeing for the first time to stop increases in carbon-dioxide emissions by around 2030 or earlier.

The reforms outlined in the document will be overseen by the International Monetary Fund and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. World leaders also agreed to tackle problems in the international tax system that have led to tax evasion by multinational companies, including the introduction of a common reporting standard on tax information to curb use of tax havens.

In another breakthrough, the Chinese president dropped opposition to anticorruption measures designed to reveal the true ownership of shell companies.

European countries had expected censure from other leaders over anemic growth in the 18-country eurozone, with Europe struggling to escape its six-year slump. The bloc’s gross domestic product remains more than 2% below pre-2008 global financial crisis levels at a time when growth in other advanced economies such as the U.S. and the U.K. is picking up.



ENLARGE

Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott and President Barack Obama with koalas before the G20 meeting in Brisbane, Australia, on Saturday. European Pressphoto Agency

But the G-20 acknowledged “modest” recovery in the euro area, with negotiators agreeing to moderate earlier plans to describe it as “weak and fragile.”

Leaders also pledged to reduce the global gender gap in job participation rates by 25% by 2025, as well as look at ways to tackle youth unemployment—a big issue for many European states such as Spain, where joblessness among youths is at 54%.

Mr. Abbott said Sunday that the G-20 had “shifted a gear” from its conception in 2008 as a forum to tackle the global financial crisis to now setting an agenda for growth, although critics of the plan doubt whether the target will be achievable. “Governments can do better, there can be higher growth and more jobs. That is what the world expects of us and that is what our people want,” Mr. Abbott said.

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LOGAN CHEEK 2 hours ago

"Gobble, gobble, gobble!" clucked the Thanksgiving turkey, as he arrogantly strutted away from the chopping block.



Barrie Harrop 6 hours ago

GOP business as usual on misleading info .

“As I read the agreement it requires the Chinese to do nothing at all for 16 years while these carbon emissions regulations are creating havoc in my state and around the country.” – US Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell, November 12, 2014.

Far from “doing nothing”, China will be building the world’s largest renewable energy system over the next 16 years. This is something that China has already started doing – so the targets agreed upon are feasible, if arduous.

As part of the US-China climate deal announced on Wednesday, China is committing to raise the proportion of renewables in its total energy system to 20%. As renewables and nuclear power currently account for 10% of China’s total energy consumption, this implies a doubling of its renewables commitment.

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/factcheck-new-climate-deal-let-china-nothing-16-years-29744>



Steve Volla 7 hours ago

What a do nothing event. A waste of time for all involved, but a great personal photo-op to burnish their statesmanship. If even 10 % of the commitments become real it would be a miracle. More a miracle is if in two years half the participants are still in office, pushed out because of angry publics ready to throw them over-board. Imagine "negotiators" negotiating wordings of condemnations against competitor nations! Surreal for sure. I somehow do not feel safer and more prosperous, rather feel a bit preposterous to waste time with this idiotic article from the Journal trumpeting great nothings on the international stage. Sounds like an end of semester frat party for world leaders. Next time, stay home and save the jet fuel and entourage costs, or give the money to some homeless country.