G20 Hamburg: Leaders fail to bridge Trump climate chasm

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Many of the protesters in Hamburg were demonstrating against Donald Trump's position on climate change

Leaders of 19 nations at the G20 summit in Germany have renewed their pledge to implement the Paris deal on climate change, despite the US pulling out.

Deadlock over the issue had held up the last day of talks in Hamburg but a final agreement was eventually reached.

It acknowledges President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement without undermining the commitment of other countries.

The compromise comes after violent protests in the host city.

The **joint summit statement** released on Saturday said: "We take note of the decision of the United States of America to withdraw from the Paris Agreement."

However, the leaders of the other G20 members agreed the accord committing nations to restrict global temperature increases was "irreversible".

In her closing news conference, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she still deplored Mr Trump's position on the Paris accord but she was "gratified" the other 19 nations opposed its renegotiation.

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The statement also said the US would "endeavour to work closely with other countries to help them access and use fossil fuels more cleanly and efficiently".

Mr Trump has pledged to help the US coal industry make a comeback and has previously characterised the Paris agreement as trying to disadvantage American workers.

He won another concession on a second sticking point - trade. While renewing a pledge against protectionism, the communiqué for the first time underlined the right of countries to protect their markets.

Mr Trump cancelled his own scheduled news conference on Saturday, reinforcing the image of the G20 as the G19 + 1, reports the BBC's diplomatic correspondent James Robbins.

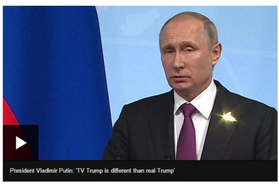
It has been a divisive summit in which the rest of the world has been struggling to come to terms with the US president's "America first" policy, our correspondent says.

Where do we go from here?

"I think it's very clear that we could not reach consensus, but the differences were not papered over, they were clearly stated," Mrs Merkel told reporters.

She said she did not share the view of UK Prime Minister Theresa May that Washington could decide to return to the climate agreement.

But Mrs May reiterated her belief that the US could rejoin the accord in her news conference on Saturday.



President Vladimir Putin: 'TV Trump is different than real Trump'

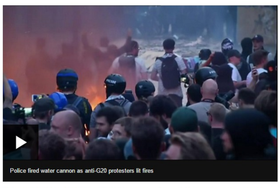
And French President Emmanuel Macron also remained hopeful of persuading Mr Trump to change his mind, saying: "I never despair of convincing him because I think it's my duty."

He announced that Paris would host another summit on 12 December to make further progress on the climate agreement and to address financing.

Why the street battles in Hamburg?

There have been large protests in the city, with demonstrators and armed police clashing into the early hours of Saturday.

Demonstrators - who were protesting against the presence of Mr Trump and Mr Putin, climate change and global wealth inequalities - set fire to vehicles and barricades, threw rocks at officers and looted shops.



Police fired water cannon as anti-G20 protesters lit fires

At one point, police chased protesters across rooftops while officers on the streets used water cannon on protesters.

Nearly 200 police officers were injured during the protests. Dozens of protesters have been detained.

What else happened at the summit?

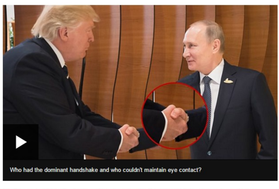
President Trump met Prime Minister May on the sidelines of the summit on Saturday **and said a US-UK trade deal would be signed soon**.

He also confirmed he would visit the UK, but said the details had still to be worked out.

On Friday, the US president used his first meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the G20 **to discuss** the alleged Russian hacking of last year's US presidential election.

President Putin said on Saturday he believed President Trump had accepted his assurances that Moscow had not interfered in the vote.

He said he had established a working relationship with his US counterpart and a ceasefire in southern Syria - agreed between the US, Russia and Jordan on Friday - was a result of America becoming more pragmatic.



Who had the dominant handshake and who couldn't maintain eye contact?

Mr Trump held his final talks of the event with President Xi Jinping, where they discussed efforts to rein in North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

President Xi suggested visits between the two countries' defence ministers, according to state news agency Xinhua.

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