

**SPEECH BY FRANCE IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
TO THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

(BERLIN - 5 APRIL 1995)

Madam Chairman,

It is a great honour for me, as Minister for the Environment of the French Republic, to take the floor today on behalf of the European Union. We welcome the fact that Germany, one of our members, has undertaken to host in Berlin the first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We would like to thank you for the warmth of your welcome and excellent organization of our proceedings.

Madam Chairman,

Almost three years ago the international community, confronted by an alarming phenomenon, the serious risk of the global warming of our planet, concluded on the need for concerted action, the foundations for which were then laid by the adoption of an international convention, the subject of which was as novel as its provisions were original.

Now the time has come for a first review. Unfortunately, this review is ambiguous. Little has been undertaken, and much still remains to be done. Through me, the European Union is today making a solemn appeal for vigilance and determination. The spirit of Rio as well as the objectives of the Convention must not be forgotten by all the parties and observers represented here, at the forefront of which are the industrialized countries.

On behalf of the European Union, I would first like to say that our fifteen States have taken very seriously the devising of policies and measures needed to fulfil our commitments and the assessment of further actions which might be required.

I would remind you that these commitments already go beyond those specified by the Convention and would qualify this. Member States of the Union individually and all the States collectively together with the European Commission, have drawn up programmes involving numerous measures with the aim of stabilizing their CO₂ emissions in the Community as a whole by the year 2000 at their 1990 level and are determined to take any additional measure as needed. This objective is clear. I would reiterate it here with the greatest of determination.

However, it is not enough for us to work solely towards the end of this century since stabilizing emissions is not enough. We must break with our current trends, succeed in limiting and reducing these emissions and achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention which are even more arduous tasks.

In this context the European Union therefore considers it vital to launch negotiations for the adoption of a protocol to the Framework Convention on policies and measures as well as targets and timetables in order to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We have already proposed a number of key elements which, in our view, should appear in that protocol: we will have to concern ourselves with all greenhouse gases, their sources and sinks and all relevant sectors of human activity. We will have to give a clear commitment to conduct policies and adopt measures which, in some cases, will need to be coordinated at an international level. The Parties must put in place flexible and differentiated rules. In our opinion this is the only way of making our commitments credible and of showing that we are taking action. It is also thanks to this improved coordination of our actions that we can derive benefit from each State's experience. At the same time we will have to set ourselves targets and timetables for the period beyond 2000 as the next milestones towards the ultimate goal of the Convention.

The negotiations of the protocol will have to be conducted at short notice and completed, if possible, by 1997 so that a maximum number of States can become parties to the Protocol and it can enter into force by the end of the century.

Madam Chairman,

At this point I should like to reaffirm that this must be a Convention for all States, and that everyone must play their part, according to their capabilities. At the same time, I recognize that responsibilities are differentiated and that the developing countries are rightly asking for their countries' development priorities to be acknowledged – however, we must all act together to ensure that that development is world-environment-friendly. This is why it is so important that the financial mechanism of the Convention, which should in our view be the permanent Global Environment Facility (GEF), should support sustainable development in the developing countries by financing incremental costs incurred by countries which do their bit to protect the climate. Lastly, still with the same aim, the development of clean technologies and transfers of such technologies are going to become a top priority in the next few years – this is why the European Union attaches such importance to the initiative of a number of OECD/IEA member countries on this subject, which my Dutch colleague will be presenting in a few minutes' time.

Madam Chairman,

I should like to add a few words on behalf of my own country. In 1990, France gave an undertaking to play its part in efforts to stabilize the Union's CO₂ emissions.

I am now able to inform you that, through its programme for preventing climate change, France will be able to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases in the year 2000 to 1990 levels, despite the special climatic conditions which meant that levels of CO₂ emissions were very low that year.

In the light of the difficulties experienced by all the parties in drawing up their own programme, France considers it essential that our action be more closely coordinated, in particular by drawing up consistent policies and measures to guarantee that the measures we all take to control emissions of greenhouse gases are the most efficient in environmental and economic terms.

Approaches of this type will allow the developed countries to take on their new commitments wholeheartedly and to continue to bear the major responsibilities placed on them by the Framework Convention, without any argument, or doubts as to their determination to take action at home.

Lastly, following the example of the Montreal Protocol, France considers it a pre-requisite for the gradual, but effective, introduction of certain policies and measures, that any distortion of competition be avoided. Assistance from the new World Trade Organization and the United Nations Environmental Programme might be useful in this regard.

Having referred to France's national programme to control the greenhouse effect, I should like to add that France also makes a contribution, through its bilateral aid, to seeing that global environment questions are actively considered in the projects it initiates – funding of energy projects represents approximately 15% of our bilateral aid, which amounts to more than 30 billion francs – moreover, France has set up a new funding mechanism, the French Global Environment Fund, which works in parallel with the financial mechanism of the Climate and Biodiversity Conventions, while following the same criteria – this fund has a budget of 440 million francs and is now operational.

Thus, Madam Chairman, France's national, European and international commitments show that it is carrying out its responsibilities and commitments to the full.

It is significant that it should be here in Berlin, a city with a tragic past, but with such a promising future, that we have made headway with the enormous task of protecting our climate, for which future generations will hold us to account.

France
(Fried)

DISCOURS DE LA FRANCE EN PRESIDENCE DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE
A LA PREMIERE CONFERENCE DES PARTIES
A LA CONVENTION-CADRE SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES

(BERLIN - 5 AVRIL 1995)

MADAME LA PRESIDENTE,

C'EST UN GRAND HONNEUR POUR MOI, MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE, DE PRENDRE AUJOURD'HUI LA PAROLE AU NOM DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE. NOUS NOUS FELICITONS QUE L'ALLEMAGNE, L'UN DE NOS MEMBRES, AIT PRIS L'INITIATIVE D'ACCUEILLIR A BERLIN LA PREMIERE CONFERENCE DES PARTIES A LA CONVENTION-CADRE DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES ET NOUS VOUS REMERCIONS POUR LA QUALITE DE VOTRE ACCUEIL ET DE L'ORGANISATION DE NOS TRAVAUX.

MADAME LA PRESIDENTE,

VOICI BIENTOT TROIS ANS, LA COMMUNAUTE INTERNATIONALE TIRAIT D'UN CONSTAT PREOCCUPANT, LE GRAVE RISQUE DE RECHAUFFEMENT GLOBAL DE NOTRE PLANETE, LA NECESSITE D'UNE ACTION CONCERTEE DONT LES BASES ONT ETE JETEES ALORS PAR L'ADOPTION D'UNE CONVENTION INTERNATIONALE AUSSI NOVATRICE PAR SON SUJET QU'ORIGINALE DANS SES DISPOSITIONS.

AUJOURD'HUI EST VENU LE TEMPS D'UN PREMIER BILAN. MALHEUREUSEMENT, IL N'EST PAS INCONTESTABLE. PEU A ETE ENTREPRIS, BEAUCOUP RESTE ENCORE A FAIRE. PAR MA BOUCHE, C'EST UN APPEL SOLENNEL A LA VIGILANCE ET A LA DETERMINATION QUE LANCE AUJOURD'HUI L'UNION EUROPEENNE. L'ESPRIT DE RIO, COMME LES OBJECTIFS DE LA CONVENTION, NE DOIVENT PAS ETRE OUBLIES PAR L'ENSEMBLE DES PARTIES ET DES OBSERVATEURS ICI REPRESENTES, AU PREMIER RANG DESQUELS SE TROUVENT LES PAYS INDUSTRIALISES.

AU NOM DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE, JE SOUHAITE TOUT D'ABORD DIRE QUE NOS QUINZE ETATS ONT PRIS TRES A COEUR L'ELABORATION DES POLITIQUES ET DES MESURES NECESSAIRES A LA REALISATION DE LEURS ENGAGEMENTS ET L'EVALUATION DES ACTIONS COMPLEMENTAIRES A ENTREPRENDRE.

JE RAPPELLE QUE CES ENGAGEMENTS VONT D'ORES ET DEJA AU DELA DE CEUX PREVUS PAR LA CONVENTION, EN LES PRECISANT. LES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'UNION INDIVIDUELLEMENT AINSI QUE TOUS LES ETATS COLLECTIVEMENT AVEC LA COMMISSION EUROPEENNE, ONT ELABORE DES PROGRAMMES COMPORTANT DE NOMBREUSES MESURES VISANT A STABILISER LES EMISSIONS DE CO₂ DANS LA COMMUNAUTE DANS SON ENSEMBLE EN L'AN 2000, A LEUR NIVEAU DE 1990 ET SONT DETERMINEES A PRENDRE TOUTES LES MESURES COMPLEMENTAIRES NECESSAIRES. CET OBJECTIF EST CLAIR. JE LE REAFFIRME ICI AVEC LA PLUS GRANDE FERMETE.

TOUTEFOIS, NOUS NE POUVONS PAS NOUS CONTENTER DE TRAVAILLER UNIQUEMENT POUR LA FIN DE CE SIECLE CAR LA STABILISATION DES EMISSIONS NE SUFFIT PAS. IL FAUT CASSER LES TENDANCES ACTUELLES, PARVENIR A LIMITER ET REDUIRE CES EMISSIONS, ET REMPLIR L'OBJECTIF ULTIME DE LA CONVENTION, TACHES AUTREMENT PLUS ARDUES.

DANS CE CONTEXTE, L'UNION EUROPEENNE CONSIDERE COMME ESSENTIEL LE LANCEMENT DE NEGOCIATIONS EN VUE DE L'ADOPTION D'UN PROTOCOLE A LA CONVENTION-CADRE PORTANT SUR DES POLITIQUES ET DES MESURES AINSI QUE DES OBJECTIFS ET DES CALENDRIERS DESTINES A LIMITER ET A REDUIRE LES EMISSIONS DE GAZ A EFFET DE SERRE.

NOUS AVONS D'ORES ET DEJA PROPOSE DE NOMBREUX ELEMENTS CLES, DEVANT, A NOS YEUX, FIGURER DANS CE PROTOCOLE : NOUS DEVRONS NOUS INTERESSER A TOUS LES GAZ A EFFET DE SERRE, LEURS SOURCES ET LEURS PUITES ET A TOUS LES SECTEURS D'ACTIVITES HUMAINES CONCERNES; NOUS DEVRONS SANS AMBIGUITE NOUS ENGAGER A MENER DES POLITIQUES ET A ADOPTER DES MESURES, DONT LA COORDINATION AU NIVEAU INTERNATIONAL, POUR CERTAINES D'ENTRE ELLES, SERA INDISPENSABLE. NOUS DEVRONS METTRE EN PLACE DES REGLES SOUPLES ET DIFFERENCIEES. C'EST A NOS YEUX LA SEULE MANIERE DE RENDRE NOS ENGAGEMENTS CREDIBLES ET DE DEMONTRER QUE NOUS AGISSONS. C'EST EGALEMENT GRACE A CETTE COORDINATION AMELIOREE DE NOS ACTIONS QUE NOUS POURRONS TIRER PROFIT DES EXPERIENCES DE CHACUN. EN PARALLELE NOUS DEVRONS NOUS FIXER DE NOUVEAUX OBJECTIFS ET CALENDRIERS, POUR L'APRES 2000, COMME PROCHAINS JALONS VERS L'OBJECTIF ULTIME DE LA CONVENTION.

LES NEGOCIATIONS DE CE PROTOCOLE DEVRONT ETRE ENTREPRISES A BREVE ECHEANCE ET ACHEVEES SI POSSIBLE D'ICI 1997 AFIN QU'UN MAXIMUM D'ETATS PUISSENT DEVENIR PARTIES AU PROTOCOLE ET QU'IL PUISSE ENTRER EN VIGUEUR D'ICI LA FIN DU SIECLE.

MADAME LA PRESIDENTE,

JE SOUHAITE REAFFIRMER A CE STADE QUE CETTE CONVENTION DOIT ETRE CELLE DE TOUS LES ETATS ET QUE TOUS A LA MESURE DE LEURS CAPACITES DOIVENT Y PARTICIPER. DANS LE MEME TEMPS, JE RECONNAIS QUE LES RESPONSABILITES SONT DIFFERENCIEES ET QUE LES PAYS EN DEVELOPPEMENT DEMANDENT A JUSTE TITRE QUE LA PRIORITE ACCORDEE AU DEVELOPPEMENT DE LEURS PAYS SOIT RECONNUE - CEPENDANT, NOUS DEVONS AGIR TOUS ENSEMBLE POUR QUE CE DEVELOPPEMENT SOIT RESPECTUEUX DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL. C'EST POURQUOI NOUS ATTACHONS LA PLUS HAUTE IMPORTANCE A CE QUE LE MECANISME FINANCIER DE LA CONVENTION QUI, DE L'AVIS DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE, DEVRAIT TOUJOURS DEMEURER LE FONDS POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL, ACCOMPAGNE LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DES PAYS EN DEVELOPPEMENT EN FINANCIANT LES SURCOUTS ENCOURUS PAR CEUX QUI PARTICIPENT A LA PROTECTION DU CLIMAT. ENFIN, ET TOUJOURS DANS LA MEME OPTIQUE, LE DEVELOPPEMENT DES TECHNOLOGIES PROPRES ET LEURS TRANSFERTS VONT DEVENIR UN ENJEU ESSENTIEL DES PROCHAINES ANNEES - C'EST POURQUOI L'UNION EUROPEENNE ATTACHE UNE IMPORTANCE PARTICULIERE A L'INITIATIVE D'UN GRAND NOMBRE DE MEMBRES DE L'OCDE/AIE SUR CETTE THEMATIQUE, QUI SERA PRESENTEE DANS QUELQUES MINUTES PAR MA COLLEAGUE DES PAYS BAS.

MADAME LA PRESIDENTE,

JE SOUHAITERAIS AJOUTER QUELQUES MOTS AU NOM DE LA FRANCE. MON PAYS A PRIS EN 1990 L'ENGAGEMENT DE PARTICIPER A L'EFFORT DE STABILISATION DES EMISSIONS DE CO₂ DE L'UNION.

JE SUIS EN MESURE D'INDIQUER AUJOURD'HUI QUE, GRACE AU PROGRAMME FRANCAIS DE PREVENTION DU CHANGEMENT DE CLIMAT, LA FRANCE SERA EN MESURE DE RAMENER SES EMISSIONS DE GAZ A EFFET DE SERRE EN L'AN 2000 A LEUR NIVEAU DE 1990, ET CECI MALGRE LES CONDITIONS CLIMATIQUES PARTICULIERES QUI AMENAIENT LES NIVEAUX D'EMISSIONS DE CO₂ A SE TROUVER TRES BAS CETTE ANNEE-LA.

C'EST A LA LUMIERE DES DIFFICULTES RENCONTREES PAR TOUTES LES PARTIES DANS L'ELABORATION D'UN TEL PROGRAMME QUE LA FRANCE ESTIME INDISPENSABLE DE MIEUX COORDONNER NOS DEMARCHES, NOTAMMENT PAR L'ELABORATION DE POLITIQUES ET MESURES COHERENTES, QUI PERMETTRONT DE GARANTIR QUE NOUS PRENONS TOUS ENSEMBLE LES MESURES LES PLUS EFFICACES, SUR LES PLANS ENVIRONNEMENTAL ET ECONOMIQUE, POUR LUTTER CONTRE LES EMISSIONS DE GAZ A EFFET DE SERRE.

DES APPROCHES DE CE TYPE PERMETTRONT AUX PAYS DEVELOPPES DE PRENDRE DE NOUVEAUX ENGAGEMENTS SANS AMBIGUITE ET DE CONTINUER A ASSUMER LES PRINCIPALES RESPONSABILITES QUI SONT LES LEURS AU REGARD DE LA CONVENTION-CADRE, ECARTANT AINSI TOUT DEBAT OU SOUPCON SUR LEUR VOLONTE D'ENTREPRENDRE DES ACTIONS CHEZ EUX.

ENFIN, SUIVANT L'EXEMPLE DU PROTOCOLE DE MONTREAL, LA FRANCE EST D'AVIS QUE LA MISE EN OEUVRE PROGRESSIVE, MAIS EFFICACE, DE CERTAINES POLITIQUES ET MESURES SUPPOSE QUE TOUTE DISTORSION DE CONCURRENCE SOIT EVITEE. LA NOUVELLE ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE ET LE PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT POURRAIENT, LE CAS ECHEANT, UTILEMENT NOUS AIDER A CET EGARD.

APRES AVOIR EVOQUE LE PROGRAMME NATIONAL FRANCAIS DE LUTTE CONTRE L'EFFET DE SERRE JE VOUDRAIS AJOUTER QUE LA FRANCE PARTICIPE AUSSI AU TRAVERS DE SON AIDE BILATERALE A LA PRISE EN COMPTE ACTIVE DES QUESTIONS D'ENVIRONNEMENT PLANETAIRE DANS LES PROJETS QU'ELLE INITIE - LE FINANCEMENT DES PROJETS ENERGETIQUES REPRESENTE ENVIRON 15% DE NOTRE AIDE BILATERALE QUI SE MONTE A PLUS DE 30 MILLIARDS DE FRANCS - EN OUTRE, LA FRANCE S'EST DOTECE CETTE ANNEE D'UN NOUVEAU MECANISME DE FINANCEMENT, LE FONDS FRANCAIS POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL, QUI FONCTIONNE EN PARALLELE AU MECANISME FINANCIER DES CONVENTIONS CLIMAT ET BIODIVERSITE TOUT EN SUIVANT LES MEMES CRITERES - CE FONDS A ETE DOTE DE 440 MILLIONS DE FRANCS ET IL EST MAINTENANT A L'OEUVRE -

AINSI, MADAME LA PRESIDENTE, LA FRANCE MONTRE PAR SON ENGAGEMENT NATIONAL, EUROPEEN ET INTERNATIONAL QU'ELLE ASSUME PLEINEMENT SES RESPONSABILITES ET SES ENGAGEMENTS.

IL EST SYMBOLIQUE QUE CE SOIT ICI A BERLIN, VILLE AU PASSE SI TRAGIQUE MAIS A L'AVENIR SI RICHE DE PROMESSES, QUE NOUS PUISSIONS PERMETTRE UNE AVANCEE DECISIVE A CE FANTASTIQUE CHANTIER QU'EST LA PROTECTION DE NOTRE CLIMAT, POUR LAQUELLE NOUS DEVONS DES COMPTES AUX GENERATIONS FUTURES.