


Sweden 072  


Statement by Sweden at Ministerial Segment of COP I

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Ms Chairman,

The issues we discuss here involve fundamental national interests. The experiences from the negotiations on the sulphur and Nox protocols within the Geneva Convention on Long range transboundary air pollution teach us that the process takes time and requires an adequate understanding also of the underlying scientific issues.

The threat to the climate is both diffuse and long term. Necessary measures will go right into the heart of economic policies and the right to develop natural resources. It is therefore not surprising but nevertheless regrettable that a negotiating mandate has not yet been agreed upon.

Our view is that firm rules and commitments for the period after the year 2000 have to be decided upon as soon as possible. Sweden will participate actively in such negotiations.

We firmly support the French statement on behalf of the European Union and the need to succeed in limiting and reducing the green house gas emissions.

I wish to highlight our experiences in climate change policies which are relevant for our negotiating stance:

First, the Swedish emissions of carbon dioxide have been reduced by 40 % since 1970 through increased energy efficiency, fuel substitution etc.

Secondly, the use of biomass in the Swedish energy supply has increased through tax incentives. ~~For instance, we apply~~ taxes on sulphur emissions, the carbon dioxide content of fossile fuels and on electricity. *all and measures to increase the use of biomass.*

Thirdly, special support is given to investments in cogeneration based on biofuels.

Moreover we have also initiated a special program of fuel substitution and energy efficiency in the Baltic Sea region. More than forty projects have been started for a total sum of 40 M dollars.

The way forward in the design of the coming protocol is, in our view, a combination of targets/timetables and policies/measures. We need agreements on targets and timetables to define the broad objectives and as a basis for efficient and transparent follow up. We need agreements on policies and measures to ensure effective implementation.

We must jointly tackle fundamental issues of energy and transport policy. The real task is to reduce the dependence on fossile fuels in general and hard and bwown coal in particular in the energy sector. Fiscal measures and, of course, reduction of subsidies, are in our view, based on our experiences, of fundamental importance.

We also have to reflect upon the notion of equivalency of commitments. In fact, ~~the~~ <sup>on</sup> ~~the~~ reductions of emissions are easier for some countries than others.

The convention also has to meet the expectations from the developing countries. Here, the role of the financial mechanism as well as transfer of technology is important. We also welcome ~~the~~ <sup>on</sup> agreement on a pilot phase of joint implementation.

Finally, we need efficient scientific support. The second assessment report of the IPCC will be a key instrument. We also need to understand still better the different cycles of the different GHG' s, their feedback mechanisms and various mitigating factors.

At the same time, scientific understanding can never be complete. The unresolved questions cannot be allowed to delay action and international commitments, as has been firmly stated in the convention.

Ms Chairman,

A global climate change policy is a policy for the next fifty years - at least. This is a long time for individuals, governments and companies. But let us for a moment reflect upon the past. Fifty years ago, these very days, saw the final collapse of a brutal tyranny. ~~Untold numbers of victims perished by this tyranny as well as through the struggles against it~~ This very city, then the symbol of this tyranny, was reduced to a pile of rubbles.

— and the  
end of a  
devastating war

Who could then have believed that out of this <sup>5</sup> ~~pile~~ <sup>destruction</sup> of  
~~Berlin would prosper again?~~  
~~rubbles a prospering city would emerge?~~

— the  
efforts of man

Looking back upon these fifty years, who cannot but  
be inspired by what ~~mankind~~ <sup>cooperation</sup> can achieve, when  
international ~~commitment~~ and the sense of common  
purpose is mobilized. It is an inspiration  
for the future of this convention. Let us  
Thank you. now turn Berlin into a  
symbol of this inspiration!