

**Statement by H.E. Raimonds VEJONIS, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Latvia, at  
United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen**

December 17, 2009

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen!

Let me begin by thanking very much Danish people for warm welcome in this snowy and crucial time!  
I am grateful to those who so late still are committed!

Latvia is a small country with small emissions and with a high share of renewable electricity, up to 50%. Latvia as a part of the EU has already committed to reduce emissions almost 50% in 2020 compared to 1990. However in order to keep global warming below 2 degrees, we have to act together to ensure comprehensive, ambitious and global agreement. All together we have to fulfill recommendations of IPCC to ensure 25-40% reduction in 2020 compared to 1990.

We have to build on experience and lessons learned during this Kyoto commitment period. Herewith I would like to underline Latvia's experience in the practical use of Kyoto flexible mechanisms. We are actively working in order to develop and implement Green Investment Schemes. We are convinced that experience with Green Investment Schemes in current Kyoto period can serve as testing ground for post-Kyoto flexible mechanisms. Transparency, accountability and efficiency are the main aspects of successful action. Green Investment Schemes are one way how to move practically towards low carbon development. We are ready to look forward to another areas and practical solutions for greening our economy. We are ready to share our experience and I am convinced that we have to use all potential of the current period up to 2012.

Another important aspect is forestry. We are proud to have substantial amount of carbon sinks from forestry, even exceeding our actual emissions. However we have to be cautious to ensure all preconditions for sustainable forest management. Sustainable forest management is very important aspect of national economy, and getting respective elements right is very important for climate change policy and in view of recovery of economy.

Solidarity is crucial to find solution for complex issues! Full participation is needed as addressing climate change requires comprehensive agreement!

And, here I can confirm once again, Latvia is committed to contribute to ensure success!

Thank you!