



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA GRÈCE
GENÈVE

2nd CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
GENEVA, 18 JULY 1996

STATEMENT BY Ms E. PAPAZOI
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
PHYSICAL PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS
OF GREECE

In the last year, the consensus of the scientific community as expressed in the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC, clearly accepts that, first, there has been a change in the parameters that define the climate of our planet, and second, that this climate change is caused by discernible anthropogenic influence, namely emissions of Greenhouse gases.

This influence, if unchecked, will result in at least doubling of CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere by the year 2100.

The anticipated consequences of these levels of concentrations seem to be an increase of at least 2 degrees Celsius of the mean global air temperature by the year 2100, a resulting 50cm increase of the mean sea level, and an increased probability of occurrence of intense local weather phenomena.

The scientific community is sending us a clear message. Unlike the situation which prevailed a year ago, there is now no doubt that this anthropogenic influence on the climate cannot be ignored nor can its consequences be tolerated.

For most of us the time scale of this threat is not easily understood. By the year 2100, our childrens' children will be grandfathers. But by nature's way, a period of a 100 years is a very short time. Even if we stabilize global emissions at today's rates, the concentrations in the atmosphere will continue to increase past 550ppmv by the end of the next century and will go on increasing for another 100 years.

At the Earth Summit in Rio, and on much less secure scientific evidence, we raised our vision and decided on action looking a decade forward. It is now clear that, on the basis of the new evidence compiled by IPCC, we should do better. We should expand our vision for binding action within a Protocol, beyond one decade, to the year 2010 and even try to reach the year 2020.

In Rio, we were able to set a clear, easily understood and measurable target-stabilization at 1990 levels. We should now press to identify equally straight-

forward quantitative global goals. They should state an upper level of stabilized CO₂ concentration such as 550ppmv, and should indicate a time to reach them.

Such ambitious but necessarily difficult targets will not be easy to meet, in view of the increasing demand for energy. Let us not forget that the anticipated increase in population is leading to the astounding figure of 8 billion people by the year 2020. We cannot also forget the rightful demand for equality in energy use by the majority of the existing and the future population. At present, the average energy per capita use in the developing world is less than 1/10 that of the developed nations.

It is therefore both fair and just, that the Annex-1 countries should be the ones that will shoulder the weight of reaching these goals. Having said that, it is also clear that they will not be able to carry this burden by themselves. All parties from the developed and developing countries should contribute their equitable share towards reaching the agreed targets, based on their ability and scope of action as well as on their level of development.

The means to reach these targets are diverse. But to meet the goal they need to be integrated and they also must be realistic, effective, binding and fair. They should take into consideration not only the technical aspects but also the social and economic ones as well. And they need to be cost-effective.

The European Union, of which Greece is a member has compiled and presented here a list of policies and measures. They cover a wide range of areas and include notably energy conservation measures for land transport, industrial products, buildings, fiscal instruments, and ways for increased energy contributions from renewable energy sources.

Greece is already in the process of implementing the majority of these policies and measures. The Hellenic government has recently announced a program for energy conservation in buildings, it is facilitating the utilization of renewable energy sources by favorable legislation and suitable targets, it is instituting fuel

substitution and it is launching a new energy conservation action plan in industry. The government is not considering the use of nuclear energy, which eventually may not contribute to climate change via the greenhouse effect and will still adversely affect the environment in other potentially equally catastrophic ways.

Greece will need to put into effect further measures to meet her obligations. Such measures will introduce in Greece, as in other countries, changes, that need to be understood and accepted by our citizens as well as by our colleagues in other ministries of our governments.

We should try to make clear and convince all our citizens that these policies and measures should not be and need not be a burden and an obstacle to development. On the contrary they should constitute an opportunity for social change that could lead to a true improvement in the quality of life. And, to quote the Brundtland Report, they can provide a means to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs.

RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: GREECE NAME OF SPEAKER: E. PAPAZOI
 DAY: 18/7 TIME: _____ NOTE-TAKER: B.B. STATEMENT PICKED UP? ☒

AGBM-RELATED ISSUES		
The speaker indicated:	<input type="checkbox"/> a preference for an amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a preference for a protocol <input type="checkbox"/> that s/he cannot indicate a preference at this time <input type="checkbox"/> AOSIS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments: <i>Greece already complying with EU guidelines - policies & measures.</i>
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mandatory policies and measures <input type="checkbox"/> voluntary policies and measures	Policies or measures specified: <i>Technical, socio-economic. Con. direction. Long term view.</i>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: _____ % by _____ year <input type="checkbox"/> no <i>Requires an upper level of 550ppmv within a time target.</i>	Comments: <i>Needs to have equitable approach. ANNEX I - should shoulder burden. although all parties must also equitable contribute.</i>

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES	
Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments: <i>Extended to 2010 & even to 2020 Long term strategies. Needs to implement national measures to attain obligations. Public awareness of sustainable benefits needs to be stressed.</i>
Development and transfer of technology	Comments:
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments:

SBI-RELATED ISSUES		
Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments:
Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ)	<input type="checkbox"/> in favour of pilot phase <input type="checkbox"/> distinction made between JI/AIJ	Comments:
Preparation of non-Annex I communications	Comments: <i>Believes non-Annex I countries have also obligations to fulfill.</i>	

OTHER COMMENTS: