



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
PRIME MINISTER

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

Statement

BY

Prime Minister of Albania, H.E. MR. Sali BERISHA,

at

The High-Level Segment of COP 15 on Climate Change

Copenhagen, 17 December 2009

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and privilege for me to attend and address today this important Summit on Climate Change, here in the beautiful city of Copenhagen.

I avail of this opportunity to extend my profound gratitude to the Kingdom of Denmark and Danish government for the excellent organization of this summit and the great hospitality it offered to our delegations.

Climate change poses a serious threat to our planet while it constitutes, at the same time, a complex issue that need be resolved with determination and efficiency.

Although it releases 5 times less green – house gases per capita than any developed country, Albania has also started to face the consequences of climate change.

Based on two national reports prepared for the purpose of UN Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC), the expected scenario of consequences stemming from climate change, particularly in the country's coastline area is a matter of concern.

Albania is determined to fulfill the obligations stemming from the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. The Government of Albanian has integrated in its own National Development Strategy the principle of sustainable development and promotion of green technologies with a view to have a free - carbon economy. Likewise, in our development policies, we are adhering to the principle "Act locally and think globally".

Allow me to be more specific:

My government goal is to turn Albania into the most important green energy producer in the region, **Albania a green energy superpower!!**

Currently, 95% of the electricity consumed in the country is produced by hydro sources. However, our production potentials are three times higher. Thus, there are around 440 new hydro power plants with a capacity of, at least, 20 billion kilowatt to be built. During the last three years, the government signed concessionaire agreements for the construction of 130 of them. Prestigious companies from all over Europe are currently working in the building of hydro power plants in Albania. Of course, the financial and economic crisis, like elsewhere, has also, somehow, slowed down the capital flow towards their financing. This why I call upon your countries and invite your countries' financial institutions to support these clean and profitable investments into renewable energy projects in Albania.

Albania has the highest average altitude in Europe and a long cost of more than 400 km. Major wind platforms are found everywhere in the country. The government of Albania has issued licenses and permits for more than 2000 Megawatt wind farms and thousands of them are undergoing fusibility studies.

Biomass is also taking place in the energy production.

In overall, contracts adding up to 5 billion Euros are signed by my government on new renewable energy projects that is hydro, wind and biomass power plants.

In addition, Albania is one of the sunniest countries. We are putting a lot of effort into encouraging solar energy.

Albania, ladies and gentlemen, is undergoing a new industrial revolution, because its entire old industry was outdated in the beginning of the nineties. In this new industrialization process we remain committed to protect the environment through promotion and development of green industry.

On the other hand, having one of the highest biodiversity in Europe and more than half of its territory covered by forests and pastures, Albania remains one of the most attractive spots for green tourism.

Being in the process of EU integration, Albania's entire industrial development and economic activity is proceeding under cautious legal rules, in harmony with the EU standards of environmental - friendly. I

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A country affected by climate change, Albania is both interested and willing to contribute into finding the best solutions for all the issues under discussions, pertaining to climate change and environment protection.

We believe that this Summit must find ways to put forward new emission reduction targets as well as provide answers to some of the issues raised during the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol such as:

- The establishment of a system designed to monitor the implementation of obligations for CO₂ emission reductions by certain states and,
- The establishment of a system of financial contributions and transfer of clean technologies to developing and less developed countries.

Once again, I would like to assure you that Albania will be ready to contribute into restraining the effects of the climate change and into materializing the decisions of this Summit.

Thank you for the attention!