

Italy



Statement by
Under-Secretary of State for Environment
Prof. Emilio Gerelli, Italy
at the first Conference of the Parties to the
Framework Convention on Climate Change
Berlin, April 6th 1995

MEINE DAMEN UND HERREN.

ZUERST MOECHTE ICH DER REGIERUNG DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND FUER DIE FREUNDLICHE UND SEHR GESCHAETZTE GASTFREUNDSCHAFT DANKEN, DIE SIE DER ERSTEN KONFERENZ DER LAENDER, DIE DIE RAHMENKONVENTION UEBER DEN KLIMAWECHSEL UNTERZEICHNET HABEN, RESERVIERT HAT.

SIE ZEIGT NOCHMALS DIE SENSIBILITAET DEUTSCHLANDS FUER DIE OEKOLOGISCHEN THEMEN UND SEIN ENGAGEMENT, SIE MIT AKTIVEM GEIST ANZUGREIFEN.

OUR CONFERENCE IS A RELEVANT STEP, AFTER RIO DE JANEIRO, ON THE WAY TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

ITALY CONFIRMS THE COMMITMENTS ADOPTED AT THE "EARTH SUMMIT" IN 1992. IN PARTICULAR THE COMMITMENT TO STABILIZE CO₂ EMISSIONS AT 1990 LEVELS BY THE YEAR 2000, NOTWITHSTANDING TH RELEVANT FACT THAT OUR CO₂ EMISSIONS

FROM THE ENERGY SECTOR ARE AMONG THE LOWEST PER UNIT OF GDP WITHIN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THEREFORE OUR NATIONAL PROGRAMMES TO LIMIT CO2 EMISSIONS ARE MORE COSTLY THAN IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNICATION TO THE CONVENTION, SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT ON THE 16th JANUARY 1995, SHOWS THAT ITALY HAS ACHIEVED 80-85% OF THE STABILIZATION GOAL, WITH MEASURES AND INVESTMENTS ALREADY TAKEN IN THE ENERGY SECTOR AMOUNTING TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND MILLION US DOLLARS.

TO FULLY ACHIEVE THE STABILIZATION GOAL ITALY HAS TO TAKE FURTHER MEASURES ON THE DEMAND SIDE FOR BOTH THE TRANSPORT AND HOUSING SECTORS, AT A COST OF 4.000 MILLION US DOLLARS.

MOREOVER ITALY IS AWARE OF ITS FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS A DEVELOPED COUNTRY AND THEREFORE ACCEPTS THE ROLE OF A COMMENSURATE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE SECRETARIAT AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CONVENTION. NEVERTHELESS ITALY BELIEVES THAT ITS RELEVANT COMMITMENTS AND EFFORTS WILL BE JUSTIFIED IF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES WILL TAKE

CLEAR AND FURTHER COMMITMENTS FOR THE LIMITATION AND REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

IN THIS CONNECTION ITALY BELIEVES THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD ACHIEVE A NEW OBJECTIVE FOR THE REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF TOTAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY THE YEAR 2010. TO THIS END ITALY SUPPORTS THE PROPOSAL FOR A PROTOCOL, TO BE ADOPTED AT THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES IN 1997, WHICH COULD THEREFORE ENTER INTO FORCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE YEAR 2000.

NEVERTHELESS, THE ANALYSES PERFORMED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE, SHOW THAT THE COMMITMENTS TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO LIMIT AND REDUCE GLOBAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. IF THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL NOT BE "INSPIRED" BY ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND CRITERIA, DURING THE NEXT 30-40 YEARS GLOBAL CO₂ EMISSIONS WILL BE TWICE AS MUCH THEY ARE NOW, ALTHOUGH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL HAVE STABILIZED OR REDUCED THEIR EMISSIONS.

FOR THIS REASON ITALY HAS WELCOMED WITH GREAT INTEREST THE "GREEN PAPER", AND BELIEVES THAT THIS DOCUMENT COULD REPRESENT A FIRST STEP TOWARDS AN ACTIVE ROLE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE LIMITATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

OBVIOUSLY, WE DO NOT IMAGINE TO PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEVELOPING ECONOMIES, ON THE CONTRARY WE BELIEVE THAT COMMON DECISIONS ON GLOBAL PHENOMENA SHOULD BE AGREED UPON AND THAT:

- THE TRANSFER OF ENERGY EFFICIENT AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS ESSENTIAL AND URGENT;
- DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD THEREFORE PROMOTE THE TRANSFER OF THE BEST TECHNOLOGIES AND ADOPT INNOVATIVE INSTRUMENTS TO FINANCE TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION;
- GOVERNMENTS AND MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS SHOULD CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORTING PRIVATE INITIATIVES, ELABORATING RULES AND INTRODUCING INCENTIVES.

TO ACHIEVE THESE AIMS THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
COULD PROMOTE NEW SOLUTIONS FOR THE JOINT IMPLEMENTATION
MECHANISM, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT IT COULD OFFER COST
EFFECTIVE WAYS TO REDUCE AND LIMIT GREENHOUSE GAS
EMISSIONS.

FINALLY, MADAM CHAIRPERSON, I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO ANNOUNCE THAT ITALY WILL HOST IN ROME, IN NEXT
DECEMBER 1995, THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE
CHANGE SESSION, FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE SECOND ASSESSMENT
REPORT.

THANK YOU.