

Notes
for an intervention by

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Minister for Environment and Energy
Denmark

at
the Second Conference of the Parties to
the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Geneva July 17th 1996

Mr. Chairman

In Berlin last year the first Conference of Parties made a good decision. It was decided to start negotiations on reduction objectives for the emission of greenhouse gases from the industrialized countries mentioned in Annex I after the year 2000.

The scientific evidence available made us realize that it was essential. Since then, evidence has hardened. Last december the IPCC reached the conclusion: "... on balance, there is a discernible human influence on global climate".

That unequivocal statement from the worlds most eminent scientists has added to our sense of urgency.

Even more now, considering the striking contrast between the need for containing global energy consumption and the projections for the demand for energy made by the International Energy Agency. The 1996 "World Energy Outlook" foresees a 50 % increase in global consumption of commercial energy by the year 2010. Maybe that growth can be reduced to "only" 34 % if the world makes every effort to maximize its energy-efficiency and save energy. For OECD countries alone, energy consumption is expected to grow up to 28 %. For the rest of the world, the Agency expects a growth between 100 and 130 %.

Obviously, the need to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases and our demand for energy in the foreseeable future does not come together.

A destabilization of the climate system is just around the corner and the need for structural adjustment in our energy policies is greater than ever before.

The world has every reason to expect that the negotiations we initiated in Berlin will lead to an ambitious protocol on reductions in our emissions of CO₂. Such a protocol should be finalized by the third Conference of the Parties in Japan next year.

Now the time has come to act together in the interest of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Narrow short term producer interests must not be allowed to interfere with the process of change in policy and the international actions, that are so desperately called for.

We need a change of policies to prevent detrimental change of global climate.

In Denmark we are ready to do our part.

Since 1972 Denmark has kept its consumption of energy stable. In the same period our Gross Domestic Product grew by some 55 %. A significant increase in our energy-efficiency has thus been achieved and we will continue our efforts.

In 1990 Denmark committed itself to cut its emissions of CO₂ by 20 % in 2005 and we intend to honour that commitment. And, being

Minister responsible for energy as well as for the environment in my country, I recently presented a plan for energy into the next century, called Energy 21. In that plan the Danish government commits itself to fulfil the policy recommendations from the IPCC.

Denmark is convinced, that the goal for the industrialized countries - the Annex I countries - should be to cut emissions by 50 % in the year of 2030. This is the only way in which we can honour the precautionary principle. Intermediate targets should be set for 2010 and 2020 in accordance with the time needed to adjust long term policies and redirect investments accordingly.

(Copies of the Danish Action Plan Energy 21 are available in the back of the room)

Denmark is prepared to endorse the necessary proposals to reach these targets at the Third Conference of the Parties in Japan. We encourage non-Annex I countries to come forward with bold proposals for containing their energy use. Annex I countries should be willing to increase their ODA to help non-Annex I countries take the necessary steps. Denmark has decided to increase its ODA from 1.1 % of GDP today to 1,5 % in 2002. Much of the increase is reserved for environmental and energy programmes.

Denmark is positive towards activities implemented jointly as part of the international strategy to prevent climate change. But we have to be very careful with carrying out the principle of joint implementation. As indicated by the IEA figures on the need for energy, the volume of investment in the energy sector, not least in the developing world, during the next decades is going to be very large. We must make sure, that joint activities under the Climate Convention are truly additional to this volume of investment. At the same time we must make sure, that joint activities do not become a loop-hole for subsidizing export of energy technology from Annex I countries. And most importantly, we must not allow joint implementation to become a sorry excuse to postpone the necessary adjustments in rich countries energy consumption.

The difficult technical problems connected with joint implementation and other issues under the convention must be solved as we move along. But technical work must not block progress in the setting of reduction targets.

The important thing is, that we continue to act in the spirit in which we mandated negotiations of reductions beyond the year 2000 in Berlin.

The signal the World expects from this meeting is a demonstration of political determination to act. The first step will be to agree on a protocol on substantial cut-backs in CO₂ emissions from the industrialized countries.

Next year in Japan.

RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: DENMARK NAME OF SPEAKER: Mr. Svend Auken

DAY: 17 July TIME: 13:21 NOTE-TAKER: CMZ STATEMENT PICKED UP? ☐ THURSDAY

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 type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments: <u>→ finished in COP 3!</u>
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input type="checkbox"/> mandatory policies and measures <input type="checkbox"/> voluntary policies and measures	Policies or measures specified: <u>"Energy 21" → program to increase to 35% of energy supply by renewable sources & they are ready to reach a 50% + taxation</u>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: <u>20</u> % by <u>2000</u> year <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments:

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES

Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments:
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: <u>→ there will be a lot of investment in the energy sector from which JI should receive a part.</u>
Preparation of non-Annex I communications	Comments:	

OTHER COMMENTS:

Recalls the need for action for CC

- From '72 (oil crisis) Denmark had a growth in GDP of 62%!