



Berlin 1995

UN Convention on Climate Change  
Conference of the parties

Madam President

Mrs. Chairperson  
Ladies and gentlemen!

ESTONIA

It is a great pleasure to have a chance to speak in this important conference here in Berlin. I would like to stress the word or name Berlin very clearly not only to thank Germany and city of Berlin for organizing this conference but especially to stress the <sup>special</sup> symbolic meaning of Berlin as border town not long ago - less than 6 years.

I am coming from the border zone too - as the Baltic States belonged to the border zone of the former Soviet Empire with all transition troubles coming out from that fact.

To be more climatological than political I should add that this border zone between nowadays Russia and Baltic States Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is very significant in climate change too. As most of climate change models predict the western side of this border - say the EU area soon - will have the increase of precipitation



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amount and the eastern side will turn more droughty. One result of that could be that more tensions than now are created by migration problems. It is one reason because we in this Baltic boarder zone are so sensitive not only as climatologists but as politicians too.

What can we do in relatively small country in transition with its society confused and <sup>where</sup> domestic problems seem ~~to~~ to be for people much more important than global warming?

We think that our first task is to take actively part in international efforts and cooperation and to fill all international agreements and obligations very carefully because the small one can have only good reputation and not to have big power.

So in our policy related to environment after the Rio Conventions ~~what we~~ <sup>what we</sup> signed in June 1992 our Parliament ratified climate Change Convention on May 11-th 1994 and the Act on Ratification was declared by the President on May 26th. The convention



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entered into force for Estonia on October 28 1994.

Moreover just now in February our Parliament accepted the Act of Sustainable Development and I believe (maybe I am wrong) that Estonia is only country in this world having such a law.

Our tactics have been just to prepare quite strong legislation before increase in economy starts (it happened last year), before our economical groups are turning too strong to stand against protective laws.

Our aim is to keep emissions of greenhouse gases as we have them now and not to allow increase of emissions with the increase of energy production going on now.

Being small emitters in global scale but good polluters per capita - Estonia ranked eighth on the world in 1990 giving 16,8 tonnes per person) - we are just completing the long-term energy-production plan with no nuclear power plants planned and with a good share of alternative



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energy used. It will not happen ~~only~~ with  
~~existing~~ prepared legal tools only. It  
needs a constant care in internal  
policy and could have some steps back  
but I promise to you that these steps  
could not taken without heavy struggle,  
in policymaking however.

Thank you for your attention!