



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**Statement of Commissioner Bjerregaard on behalf of the European Community to the
Second Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate
Change**

Thursday 18th July 1996

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

We are here to make progress. To give direction to our work and to prepare the next vital steps of our joint endeavor to combat climate change. The third Conference of the Parties will be crucial in this respect. In the past many challenged even the existence of climate change itself. With scientific uncertainty there has been ample scope for the cynics to question the true level of international commitment.

We now, however, look to the future from a different and more certain position.

The messages of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change leave no room for misunderstanding. It clearly is our common responsibility to confirm its findings and use them as the basis for a protocol. Our generation is faced with the impelling and challenging task to mitigate climate change and therefore with the need to change the course of human behavior. We owe this to ourselves, we owe this to our planet and we owe this to future generations.

The perspective is frightening. The scientific assessment is that if we want to limit the change of the global climate to what is scientifically seen as sustainable, a global reduction of CO₂ emission in the order of 60 % would be necessary. This would roughly translate into a 60 % reduction in the use of fossil fuels worldwide.

It goes without saying that such a reduction cannot be achieved overnight. However, the world is increasing its CO₂ emissions and consequently a more and more rapid build up of CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere is inevitable unless we agree to take decisive actions. We must define an effective policy:

First, I consider it crucial that we set legally binding and ambitious reduction objectives for industrialized countries. This should be a main outcome of the Berlin Mandate process. Our efforts here must effectively respond to the warnings of the IPCC. Therefore, the percentages we settle for the next decades must show clear progression. Each Party must be prepared to use its potential for the reduction of green house gases to the fullest extent.

The second task is that all Annex I Parties have to implement specific policies and measures to reach these targets. We have to use the tools available and deliver. The European Union has, as you know, submitted proposals for negotiations for all the key

sectors such as - energy, transport, industry, agriculture and waste management. It is now crucial that we start actual negotiations on effective measures for these sectors.

Let me give a very concrete example: The European Environment Ministers have recently asked the Commission to negotiate an agreement with the car industry. This agreement should ensure that the average gasoline consumption of new cars is reduced to five liters per 100 km by the year 2005 and no later than by 2010. Such an undertaking in one sector alone will be equivalent to more than 30 percent reduction compared to today's situation.

Another challenge in the transport sector is how to deal with jet fuel emissions. In the future these will grow dramatically with increasing traffic worldwide. The price of jet fuels must reflect the real costs to the environment.

The credibility of industrialized countries is at stake. Not only for future objectives but also for present commitments to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000. In both respects The EU is determined to live up to its commitments.

Mr. President,

I fully support the Declaration of Ministers worked out last night both with respect to the endorsement of the findings of the IPCC and especially with regard to the commitment to accelerate negotiations towards an ambitious protocol. As you know the EU would have liked to be more specific in its support of the findings of the IPCC, but I realize that the present text represents a clear political willingness to move forward.

The future work on the Mandate is a major challenge. It requires the cooperation of all Parties - developed as well as developing countries. We must help each other. Annex I Parties must assist the developing countries and facilitate transfer and access to environmentally sound technologies and financial resources. Furthermore we must intensify our efforts in the area of activities implemented jointly where we are still in a learning phase. An effective dialogue will help this process.

The Mandate is bound to a tight time schedule and the time is precious. I therefore call on this Conference to guide further negotiations to make COP III in Kyoto Japan a real success.

I thank you for your attention.

RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: EC Commissioner NAME OF SPEAKER: RiH Bjerrvgaard

DAY: 18/7 TIME: 12⁰⁸ NOTE-TAKER: BB 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>for. indust. countries</i>
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mandatory policies and measures <input type="checkbox"/> voluntary policies and measures <i>- should we have available? Not clearly mandatory. = measures:</i>	Policies or measures specified: ANNEX I - must implement a decrease - using EU targets. 50/100 km - negotiated with car sector -> 30% reduction. <i>Fuel costs must reflect real cost.</i>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: _____ % by _____ year <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: <i>Global redn. of 60% CO₂ em. a hence use of fossil fuels.</i>

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES

Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments: <i>Supports 1990 level to be attained by 2000. Needs a collective approach. Believes in negotiations with major sectors.</i>
Development and transfer of technology	Comments: <i>Supports need for transfer of technologies, especially transfer from devel. -> developing</i>
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <i>use basis for further action: -</i> ① Confirm findings ② basis for Protocol. EC

SBI-RELATED ISSUES

Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: <i>Supports assistance</i>
Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in favour of pilot phase <input type="checkbox"/> distinction made between JI/AIJ	Comments: <i>Requires continuation of pilot phase of AIJ. - there efforts should be intensified</i>
Preparation of non-Annex I communications	Comments:	

OTHER COMMENTS:

Commitment to acc.
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