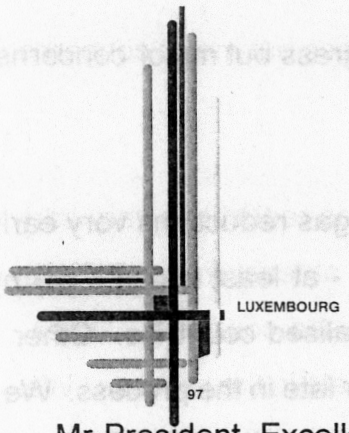


**STATEMENT BY LUXEMBOURG**
**ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**
**AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**(CoP3, Kyoto, 1-10 December 1997)**

Mr President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is my privilege to address this historic Conference as Minister of the Environment of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

May I first congratulate the Government of Japan, represented here by Prime Minister Hashimoto, on hosting the Third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in this beautiful city of Kyoto, and thank the Japanese people for their very warm welcome. I would also like to express my appreciation of the hard work and leadership shown by the Chairman, Director General Oki, and Ambassador Estrada.

Never has the issue of climate change been in the forefront as it is today. Scientists have confirmed that the planet is becoming warmer, precipitation patterns are changing and sea-levels are rising, and that this change is influenced by human activity. This is why we are gathered here to negotiate and adopt a protocol that will be a milestone in addressing climate change, and will allow us to ward off the potential significant economic and social damage, which could be particularly acute in developing countries.

The eyes of the planet are turned towards Kyoto. Climate change is a truly global issue, not only because it involves all the countries of this globe, but because it pervades our daily behaviour and economic thinking. Public opinion, governments, non-governmental organisations and industry have recognised that action has to be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to protect the environment and to create opportunities for the economy.

Based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and of the historical responsibilities of developed countries in the emission of greenhouse gases, Annex I Parties must take the lead in modifying the trends of those emissions.

In order to realise significant greenhouse gas reductions and in order to ensure fair competition, we believe mandatory internationally coordinated policies and measures are indispensable. This remains our view and we urge other Parties to review and reconsider their positions.

The suggestions that developing countries should take up new commitments were not helpful to the progress of negotiations and contrary to the Berlin Mandate. Developed countries have to take the lead on reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. That is precisely why we are advocating strong legally binding targets for Annex I countries in Kyoto.

To foster sustainable development and voluntary limitation of greenhouse gas emissions by developing countries, new and additional resources should be mobilised through the financial mechanism defined by the Convention in order to cover the incremental costs of actions developing countries have to undertake to deal with global environmental problems and accelerate sustainable development. We believe it useful that this Conference of the Parties consider ways in which action to combat climate change could be strengthened with the participation by all countries in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and their social and economic conditions. We consider in this respect that the process of a review of commitments under Article 7.2 of the Convention could be started as an appropriate means to this end.

Let me now address the so-called EU bubble. It is nothing new, it contributes to the ultimate objective of the Framework Convention and the principle is firmly enshrined therein. With the EU bubble, the European Community and its Member States guarantee that the aggregate Community target - that is the total of all 15 Member States - can and will be met, not because the bubble gives us an advantage, as some countries have argued, but because our constitution - the EC Treaty - requires us to do so. The EU bubble is the way in which the European Community and its Member States, with a burden-sharing agreement, will jointly fulfil their obligations under the Protocol that we intend to adopt here in Kyoto, in just the same way that we are fulfilling the stabilisation commitment under the Framework Convention.

In conclusion, Mr President, the EU reaffirms its readiness to cooperate constructively with the other Parties and repeats its plea. We must act ambitiously, and we must act now.