

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
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**STATEMENT  
BY H.E. DR ANDREJ UMEK  
THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

Mr. President, Colleagues Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, at the outset, to express my gratitude to the City of The Hague and the Government of The Netherlands for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us. I hope this extraordinary atmosphere and firm determination of many delegations to overcome the remaining obstacles will lead to a successful conclusion of this session.

COP4 gave us a clear mandate to fulfil the Buenos Aires Plan of Action until COP6. We managed with extreme efforts to fulfil the Berlin Mandate in two years to an agreed Kyoto Protocol. We believe we will be able, two years after Buenos Aires, to provide here, in The Hague, a firm foundation for the Protocol thus enable bringing it into force by 2002.

Republic of Slovenia is aware that the concentrations of the GHG in the atmosphere increase very fast. Most of this increase is anthropogenous. Our opinion is that it is proven beyond reasonable doubt that the increases in concentration of GHG induce the Climate Change.

The Republic of Slovenia as an Annex B Party has an obligation to reduce its emissions in the first commitment period by 8 %. Our Government has recently adopted the document entitled "Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategy", harmonised among all relevant sectors, e.g. energy, transport, industry, waste management, agriculture and forestry. A more detailed and economically specified programmes, the realistic scenarios, will follow in the next year. We are determined to achieve most of the reductions by taking domestic measures; on the other hand we count seriously on the Kyoto mechanisms, especially Joint Implementation and also to some extent Emission Trading. It will not be easy to reach this goal, however, we are firmly committed to do our part. We also call on the other Annex B Parties to use the principle of supplementarity only to limited extend, in other words, to commit themselves to achieve at least one half of their GHG emission reduction through domestic measures.

We expect that all Parties will reach here, in The Hague, an agreement and that will adopt the principles, modalities, rules and guidelines for all three mechanisms.

Slovenia feels that it is bound to Kyoto protocol in the spirit and the letter. We are also aware that Kyoto Protocol is only the first step in the right direction. The further steps should follow.

The strategies to reduce the emission of GHG will, no doubt about it, strongly influence the economic condition and global markets. Slovenia expects that the cost and burdens will be distributed in such a way that our competitiveness on global market will not be impeded. As an accession country to the EU we also expect Europe, by that I mean EU and accession countries, will adopt common position and strategies. This is the only way to preserve the internal market and equality of all subjects present and future on it. The internal market is the foundation of the Union and should be preserved by all means. For these common European strategies we propose that there are predominantly based on domestic action and Joint Implementation. We urge our partners in Europe and all over the world to put all the emphasis on the development of the "post fossil fuel technologies". Only these technologies guarantee on one hand the further reduction steps and on other hand the economic feasibility of Kyoto protocol.

Slovenia favours a realistic approach to LULUCF. Much progress has been made in the preceding week at the SBI and SBSTA sessions; at this moment however some issues are still unsettled. Slovenian delegation has also submitted our position on afforestation and reforestation concerning methodological issues of the LULUCF.

The meeting in The Hague should in our opinion represent a turning point in the climate change negotiation. Slovenia will do everything in its power to contribute to the successful outcome. We hope that the Hague Conference will be the starting point of a long-term transition to a global low carbon economy. We support the initiative of many Parties to ratify the Protocol to enter into force by 2002, on the historical occasion of the Rio +10.

Thank you, Mr President.