



**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**ADDRESS OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE  
GOVERNMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
H.E. LJERKA MINTAS HODAK**

**to the**

**Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC  
Buenos Aires, November 2-13, 1998**

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Your Excellency,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take great pleasure in having the honour and the privilege to address this prominent Conference and would like to avail myself of this opportunity to convey the warmest thanks of the Government of the Republic of Croatia to the Government and the people of Argentina, as well as to the citizens of Buenos Aires, for their hospitality.

The last year's Conference of the Parties in Kyoto adopted the Kyoto Protocol, one of the fundamental international instruments, in which the developed countries have undertaken the most challenging targets in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol should mean a shift towards more cost-effective and cleaner technologies, more efficient use of energy resources, use of renewable energy resources, efficient forest management and different economic approaches to agriculture, and it is to our Conference to make it work.

The Kyoto Protocol is a major step forward in combating climate change; however, its ultimate success will require increasingly global participation. In achieving this, it is necessary to gradually widen the range of countries with commitments. This must be in accordance with their joint, yet differentiated, responsibilities, taking into full account the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustainable economic and social development. In order to fulfil the commitments of emission reductions, it is necessary to establish substantial cooperation among developed and developing countries by means of different mechanisms, transfers of technology and practice, joint project implementation etc.

It is the view of my Government that domestic actions should and will provide the main means for meeting the Kyoto commitments, and the flexibility mechanisms established under the Protocol are a supplement to them, to the extent that they provide a framework for the Annex I Parties to achieve targets in a more cost-effective manner. In that regard, we believe that all three mechanisms are necessary, none of them is sufficient by itself and all of them should be developed in parallel, providing the comprehensive coverage.

Each of the flexibility mechanism must be equitable, that is, open, transparent, verifiable and non-discriminatory and should be made equally competitive and attractive.

Allow me to stress that for the Annex I Parties with economies in transition, the joint implementation mechanism is of the great importance and its effects in those countries can be compared with those to be achieved through clean development mechanism. The joint implementation mechanism, in the same manner as the clean development mechanism, may serve both, widely accepted purposes of the Convention (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol: meeting the reduction targets of the Annex I Parties and achieving the sustainable development in the host country.

It is the position of my Government that, at the same time, a strong system of flexibility mechanisms implementation monitoring and reporting is necessary. To this end it is our understanding that only the Parties which are bound by a certain compliance regime, or at least which have submitted their inventories, national communications and other relevant information pursuant to the Convention, should make use of these mechanisms.

Your Excellency,  
esteemed delegates,

The Republic of Croatia clearly opted for the preservation of nature and human environment as one of the fundamental values of the constitutional order of the State, and in that sense spares no efforts in creating a consistent and modern environmental policy for sustainable development.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Republic of Croatia, as an Annex I Party, has been and is willing to put additional effort in order to continue fulfilling its commitments under the Convention and that, in this respect, its greenhouse gas emissions are planned to remain below the 1990 level in the year 2000.

However, the first estimates show that in the view of the economic development it will be difficult to retain the desirable emission levels after 2005. Even with additional efforts a certain growth of carbon

dioxide emissions by 2010 seems realistic to expect. As to the other greenhouse gasses, it is conceivable to achieve reductions in methane and nitrous oxide emission levels in relation to 1990; however, actual estimates may be expected only after the first national communication, that is now in the pipeline, will have been completed.

Regardless of the mentioned estimates for greenhouse gas emission reduction possibilities, the Republic of Croatia is going to undertake, in accordance with its capabilities, measures aimed at greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, and strive to achieve and maintain a sustainable economic policy. In that regard, steps are being undertaken as we speak, to harmonise the manner of energy policy implementation with the climate change issues. In addition to that, the intensification of overall integration processes that Croatia is undergoing at the European and global level, inevitably imposes passing of transparent regulations to disallow investments into production that would result in the increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Besides its political will to pursue the sustainable development and the domestic actions undertaken to meet this targets, some financial assistance and transfer of technology are indispensable in this process.

Your Excellency,  
esteemed delegates,

Let us make final extra efforts for reaching agreement on as many operational issues and principles as possible.

I would like to express the hope, on my own behalf and on behalf of my Government, that this Conference yields significant outcomes concerning the establishment of principles, modalities, rules and procedures for the global use of flexibility mechanisms, as a supplement to domestic actions, which will all together guarantee the effectiveness of our environmental policies and make the Kyoto Protocol a reality.

Thank you.