

**CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (CAN) NORTH INTERVENTION COPS**  
**TUESDAY 2<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1999**  
**By Karla Schoeters**

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues. My name is Karla Schoeters, Director of Climate Action Network Europe (CNE or CAN-Europe). Today I represent the Northern members of Climate Action Network (CAN). CAN represents 285 citizen groups from all continents of this earth, with more than 10 million members.

Being a newcomer to this process I had a lot of energy, and in the beginning I was wondering why my colleagues were so negative. I had thought that, with the convention signed 7 years ago and through the political success of Kyoto, the process had evolved into real protection of our environment. I must say I quickly woke up from my naiveté because the truth is different. It became evident that urgent action can NOT be delayed.

While you are all discussing technical issues which are more related to politics than science our planet is struggling. Do you, by any chance, remember why we initiated this whole process? When you are discussing "should" or "shall" do you see the threats related with Climate Change? Climate Change is not something that is far ahead, it is one of the major issues that endanger our whole planet. Floods, hurricanes, coral bleaching, species disappearance are just a few of the impacts we hear of every day. Maybe the most frightening part is that we do not know exactly what will happen with our planet if actions are not taken. I don't want to take the risk, do you?

We as citizens therefore urge ministers to add real political momentum at COP5 by committing to the early entry into force and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. We want the ministers to reaffirm and adopt at this session two clear deadlines:

- First of all the Rio+10 summit in 2002 should be set as the final date for entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and ;
- Secondly the one and only date for the adoption of the implementation rules for the Kyoto Protocol should be at COP6

These two important decisions can, and must be, made by you at COP5. Negotiators need clear instructions so that the Buenos Aires Action Plan is implemented on time. The objective of this work must be to ensure a strong protocol that generates real greenhouse gas reductions to protect our atmosphere.

With this objective in mind CAN considers the following points absolutely essential:

- We want CDM and JI to be environmentally effective and socially equitable for host countries. This should be achieved by **prioritising renewable energy** and the exclusion of nuclear power, clean coal and large hydro. However, we should not forget that CDM and JI on their own are minor tools for achieving the Kyoto targets and that **domestic actions by Annex I countries should come first**.
- **Additional sink activities**, under Article 3.4, **should not be applied during the first commitment period**.
- Whatever the reason for non-compliance would be, **truing up by borrowing from the next commitment period is unacceptable** as it would allow commitments to be postponed indefinitely.

As a European, I call upon the EU and other Annex I countries to add momentum to this negotiation before my, your, our world becomes a greenhouse chamber, with us trapped inside. If we all work together and address these issues in the right way we have a chance that we can protect the world for our children and future generations. Never forget that the Kyoto Protocol is just a first step in our fight against Climate Change and we, as citizens, are watching and waiting for you to take action!

Thank you Mr. President.