



Présidence française
de l'Union Européenne

STATEMENT BY FRANCE ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ITS MEMBER STATES.

The Hague November 13th – 24th 2000

SBI13

SBSTA 13

6th meeting

INTRODUCTORY E.U STATEMENT

1. On behalf of the European Union, we are pleased to be in the Hague for this sixth Conference of the Parties. Preparatory work has been intense and fruitful. We are particularly grateful to the Secretariat for the way in which they have helped us to prepare the ground for the Conference.
2. We are now at a moment of truth, because climate change does not wait. The scientific community, through the IPCC, has confirmed the pertinence of its earlier warnings, and the first visible signs of climate change are emerging in all continents, including our own.
3. So, resolute action to contain greenhouse gas emissions is now more necessary than ever. We therefore need a successful outcome at COP 6 that will permit the ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol by 2002, the tenth anniversary of Rio. Such an agreement is in the interest of all Parties.
4. An agreement must not, however, undermine the Protocol's environmental integrity in any way. In this regard, the EU insists that the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol must lead to significant, real, domestic emissions abatements in Annex I countries. It is their responsibility to take the lead in reversing the historical trend of emissions and to achieve demonstrable progress in doing so by 2005. In this respect, the EU:
 - recalls its position, with reference to its proposal on the concrete ceiling, that domestic action must constitute the main means for developed countries to meet their commitments,
 - looks for substantive agreement on all the three mechanisms at COP6,
 - believes that a strong and comprehensive compliance system, supported by a reliable system of monitoring, reporting and review should be established with immediate effect, including strict consequences for non-compliance with clear economic impact on Parties,
 - maintains its serious concerns about the scale and the scientific and other uncertainties and risks associated with sinks, in particular for activities under article 3.4 of the Protocol and for sinks in the CDM.

5. In parallel, the EU emphasises the need for developed countries to intensify their co-operation with developing countries in order to show solidarity in facing the impact of climate change and to help non-Annex I Parties in promoting their sustainable development. In particular, the EU:

- reaffirms its willingness to meet its obligations as Annex I and Annex II Parties in the context of the common but differentiated responsibilities of all Parties to contribute to efforts to combat climate change,
- recognises the concerns of developing countries relating to climate change as well as adaptation to adverse effects of climate change, including combating desertification, sea level rise, salinisation, and safeguarding food production, noting that capacity building, technology transfer and the implementation of the CDM will play an important role,
- wishes in particular to ensure that steps are taken to address the needs of least developed countries,
- believes that concrete actions will need to be taken in these areas, including the need to address funding through bilateral and multilateral channels, such as the GEF, as the financial mechanism of the Convention, and other qualified international institutions,
- notes the concerns of some developing countries about the impact of response measures,
- reaffirms that climate change should be an integral part of the development cooperation agenda, and that it will work to prioritise climate change when integrating sustainable development and environmental aspects in its policies,
- underlines that a clear definition of a positive list of eligible projects will allow for a prompt start of the CDM straight after COP 6, and that this will accelerate the availability of revenue from the adaptation levy.

6. The EU supports the efforts taken by countries with economies in transition, many of which are candidates for accession to the European Union, to fulfil their obligations under the Convention and the Protocol. It believes that the successful implementation of their commitments will contribute to their further economic development and their wider industrial restructuring, in particular in the energy sector. Therefore, the EU:

- is committed to making joint implementation a successful instrument of cooperation between Annex I Parties to combat climate change,
- acknowledges that capacity building is critical for the effective implementation by countries with economies in transition of their commitments under both the Convention and the Protocol, in particular with respect to monitoring and reporting and Annex I Parties should continue to support capacity building activities through bilateral and multilateral channels.

7. Once again, the EU calls on all Parties to work together for an overall agreement at COP6, and, on that basis, to take the necessary steps to ratify the Kyoto Protocol as soon as possible after COP 6, so as to bring it into force by 2002.
