

Josef Rott, Austria

Speaking Note

Mr Chairman,

Climate friendly technologies are key to long-term mitigation of climate change, adaptation to climate change and sustainable development. Industrialised countries are still in the beginning of a transformation process towards less carbon intensive economies. The most common problem is that many of the relevant technologies are not competitive on the market in comparison to conventional technologies nowadays. However, there are different options to intervene in the markets, like fiscal incentives or removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, preferential access for green electricity to the grids, green certificates or emissions trading.

Austria, together with other Member States of the European Union, has already made positive experiences with instruments of that kind over the past years, helping us to achieve our Kyoto target. First success stories, for instance with respect to the expansion of wind power, heat from biomass, the use of biofuels or the application of innovative technologies in the building sector become visible and, what is even more important, become common practice to the benefit for the economy and the users of those technologies.

However, Mr Chairman, it will be key to the development of the global climate system, that these technologies will also be disseminated in countries that do not belong to the Annex I of the Convention. We have to respect the growing need for energy services in many parts of the world. It is therefore essential, that in regions where basic needs are not met sufficiently today, new technologies – for example renewable energy sources - find their way into the markets to the benefit of the people and the environment. Technology transfer is essential for the future, while in my view most of the activities in that respect need to be driven by the private sector.

Governments can influence technology diffusion in a positive way, for instance by making use of the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation. The Government of Austria is dedicating 36 Million Euros annually for the purchase of GHG reduction units from CDM and JI projects. The current project list includes an



increasing number of CDM projects that clearly make an important contribution to the use of new technologies and sustainable development in developing countries. It is essential from our perspective, that this mechanism is not only given a prompt start, but also has a long term perspective reaching beyond 2012 and therefore providing investors a more secure project development environment.

Finally, I would also like to highlight the important role of the „Clean Technology Initiative“ - CTI, which has proved to be an important tool for disseminating climate-friendly new technologies towards Developing Countries and provides substantial financial resources to the UNFCCC Expert Group on Technology Transfer. Since this year, Austria also supports the valuable work of the CTI.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.