

Draft intervention by Hans Christian Schmidt, Danish Minister for the Environment. Ninth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Round-table I, December 10th, 2003

“Climate Change, Mitigation, Adaptation and Sustainable Development”.

Thank you.

We have come to Milan to deliver a clear and credible political response to the challenges from man-made climate change.

Ever since its adoption, the relevance of the Kyoto Protocol has been put into question.

Some say it is too ambitious, - too costly. Others, that it is too little, - too late. As I see it, the Kyoto Protocol is a very important first step in the right direction.

A “business as usual” scenario towards 2012 – with increasing global emissions – is simply irresponsible.

With the Kyoto Protocol we have chosen a different path:

The Protocol is *the only existing multilateral instrument* to help us combat climate change. Without it, we would have to reinvent a similar approach to achieve the same effect. We need more than voluntary action and non-binding national efforts. There is no alternative to the common action provided for in the Protocol.

The Protocol lays down *a credible architecture* for our future efforts. IPCC has shown that substantial cuts in current emissions are necessary to prevent dangerous interference with the climate system.

The mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol will allow us to take cost-effective action in an atmosphere of mutual co-operation. Joint Implementation and the Clean Development mechanism will create new sources of funding according to the principle of "common, but differentiated responsibilities".

Thus, the Protocol can be a unique driver towards improving global co-operation.

(In Johannesburg last year, we agreed to substantially increase the global use of renewable energy. Following up on this commitment, the EU has launched "The Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition."

We need to work together, to effectively increase the use of renewable energy. It is necessary to fulfil our commitments under the Kyoto Protocol in the short run; - and it is a crucial element in creating a sustainable energy future for all of us in the longer run.)

The plain fact is this: there is no credible alternative to working along the lines of the Kyoto Protocol. It has credible answers to the most important questions. And it can stimulate cost-effectiveness in national, regional and global efforts to combat climate change.

We need the Kyoto protocol to enter into force.
Thank you.

