



Milan, 11 December 2003

COP9 moves the Kyoto Protocol forward

The European Union welcomes the outcome of the 9th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP9) that has taken place in Milan on 1 – 12 December 2003. The conference has underscored the commitment of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and reached agreement on a number of open issues to make the Protocol operational. The EU calls on all Parties that have not yet done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. The EU is fully committed to taking all the measures necessary to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and reach its Kyoto targets.

The President of the EU Council of Environment Ministers Altero Matteoli said: *"The 9th Conference of the Parties has been able to translate into concrete rules and procedures the political decisions of previous COPs, in particular the Bonn, Marrakesh and Delhi. During this Conference an agreement was reached on the Kyoto Mechanism to help the Parties meet the target with projects on, re-forestation and afforestation with clear and deliverable mechanism of risk evaluation and crediting.*

At this stage a very limited number of issues remain open. One of them relates to the Special Fund for Climate Change on which we are very close to an agreement between G77 and some developed countries. Among others, the impasse was discussed today with Environment Minister of Algeria Rahmani. Minister Rahmani was in full agreement that a balanced and pragmatic approach is needed to reach a compromise solution on the issue. He declared himself ready to promote such an approach with a view to realistically meeting the expectations of the 77 Group and those of developed countries.

The EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström added: *"The conference has shown that the Kyoto Protocol is alive. It has demonstrated the commitment of Parties around the world to make concrete progress in implementing it. The Kyoto Protocol is an ingenious treaty and nobody has so far presented any credible alternative to it. It allows all countries to participate in combating climate change without compromising their economic development; it provides for innovative market instruments and technology transfer; and it creates a strong framework for monitoring and ensuring*

delivery of commitments."

120 countries representing two thirds of the world population have by now ratified the Kyoto Protocol demonstrating the commitment of Parties to the only international framework for combating climate change. The 9th Conference of the Parties has taken important decisions on the modalities for forestry projects ("carbon sinks") under the Clean Development Mechanism. It also agreed on a mandate for discussions on the allocation of emissions from international aviation and shipping to Parties. Furthermore the Parties drew up guidance for reporting land-use, land-use change and forestry in national greenhouse gas inventories. The EU has underscored its commitment to the Kyoto Protocol by making concrete steps towards implementing the financial commitment made in Bonn, i.e. 369 million USD per year from 2005 for climate-related actions. The ministerial round tables during the conference are providing ample evidence of the progress made in many parts of the world in combating climate change and addressing its effects.

The European Union and its Member States are pursuing their efforts to meet their targets under the Kyoto Protocol. The EU has to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 8 per cent between 1990 and 2008-2012 and has decreased its emissions by 2.3 per cent between 1990 and 2001. In 2005, the EU's internal emissions trading will start covering almost half of the EU's carbon dioxide emissions. It is planned to allow the conversion of allowances from Joint Implementation (JI) and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects into emission allowances under the EU emissions trading scheme thereby promoting the use of JI and CDM. The EU has also put into place important measures to for example promote electricity generation from renewables and the use of biofuels in transport, increase the energy-efficiency of buildings and improve the fuel-efficiency of passenger cars.