

**NINTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
ON CLIMATE CHANGES**

**High-Level Segment  
(Milan 10 December 2003)**

*Address by  
The Italian Minister for Environment and Territory  
On behalf of the Italian Government  
Hon. Altero Matteoli*

Mr. President, Minister Persanyi,  
Executive Secretary, Mrs. Joke Waller-Hunter,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Ministers and Representatives of the 188 Parties to the Framework  
Convention on climate changes,  
UNEP Executive Director, Klaus Toepfer,  
Representatives of the Secretariat and of the Agencies of the United Nations,  
Representatives of the Non-Governmental Organisations,  
I'm pleased to greet you on behalf of the Italian Government and of Italy.

Due to the intense activities and consultations underway, aimed at reaching an agreement on the New European Constitution, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi cannot be present today, and asked me to welcome you on his behalf, and to confirm Italy's commitment to a full compliance of the obligations undertaken with the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

As recalled by President Berlusconi in his letter to all the COP 9 delegates, the Lisbon strategy, aimed at "*establishing a competitive, dynamic, knowledge-based economy*", and the subsequent directions of the Goteborg and Barcelona European Council Meetings, aimed at "*reaching high eco-efficient economic growth standards in Europe*", are the key reference points for the Intergovernmental Conference on the future of the European Union, which is working on a new European Constitution.

Actions already taken by the European Union, together with those still underway, are in line with such efforts, aimed at reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and at the same time strengthening the competitiveness of European companies.

The conclusions of the EU Council of Ministers for the Environment in preparation for COP 9, highlighted that national measures and policies, together with common measures and policies within the European Program for Climate Change, will enable the EU to properly face the global challenge of climate change and fulfil its obligations.

I particularly wish to point out that the recently approved directive, which sets up the European market of emission certificates, and the directive on the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms, currently under examination, will enable the European Union to promote the development of the most efficient technologies in the domestic and global market, alongside with favouring the transfer of sound and environmentally friendly knowledge and technologies to the Developing Countries and economies in transition.

Furthermore, the Council has confirmed the UE commitment to allocate yearly to the Developing Countries, starting from 2005, 369 million US dollars, in order to comply with the voluntary commitment undertaken in 2001 with the Bonn Declaration.

Following the path shown by the European Union, the Italian Program for the reduction of the emissions integrates in a single strategy the plan for modernizing Italy and increasing its economic efficiency, with a reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

At the same time, Italy is committed to exploit the potential of the innovative mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol as an "engine" of opportunities and a growth factor, to expand and consolidate cooperation with the Developing Countries, Eastern European and Central Asian Countries. The final aim is strengthening both global strategies for the reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and adjustment measures for those countries which are most vulnerable to climate change.

Besides the decision already made by the Italian Government to contribute yearly with 86 million US dollars to Climate Funds, the following decisions have been taken in Milan over the past few days:

- Funding the setting up of the International Registry of Carbon Credits and Trade at the Secretariat of the Convention,
- Supporting projects to allow Developing Countries to adjust to climate change, based on the use of renewable sources and agriculture and forestry activities.

These practical examples of our commitment show Italy's willingness to favour a successful conclusion of COP 9.

I wish that the COP 9 conclusions may confirm that the process started in Marrakech should continue and be enhanced through

- The commitment of industrialized countries to reduce their emissions,
- The acknowledgment of the role of technologies, in order to meet the growing energy demand in a sustainable way,
- The definition of the role of forestry programs for carbon absorption,
- The launch of the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms on a global scale.

The results achieved over the past ten days allow us to be fairly optimistic.

We share the responsibility for successfully concluding this high-level segment of COP 9.

This is the wish and commitment of Italy.