

IRELAND  
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## **Technology including technology use and development and transfer of technologies**

**Introductory Remarks by Minister Cullen, Minister for the Environment of Ireland  
On behalf of the European Community and its Member States**

**Milan, 11 December 2003**

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, [I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.]

The best use of our technological skills, resources and potential across the world, available now and into the future, is central to our common global response to climate change.

The Kyoto Protocol has galvanised responses to climate change and has acted as the critical “pull” factor creating the right environment for technology investment, dissemination and transfer. It sends a clear signal to Parties, and in turn the EU has passed on the policy signal to the private sector through our emissions trading legislation and the Kyoto mechanisms, to invest in efficiencies and technologies that curb emissions in countries adhering to the Protocol. Our progress in emissions reductions shows that deferral of actions while awaiting new technologies is not an adequate response to climate change, however important these new technologies may yet be in achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention.

Recent analysis from the International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that in a business-as-usual scenario, global investment needs in the energy sector up to 2030 will amount to 16 trillion dollars, or on average 1% of global GDP. China, India and other developing countries will have to invest above the world average, unless we adopt and share new energy approaches and technologies. These technologies must support the decoupling of economic growth from the use of fossil fuels and the emission of greenhouse gases.

While we may never have a single miracle solution, part of the answer is already within our grasp. We can begin to address sustainable development needs through a combination of already proven energy efficiencies and the diffusion of existing technologies.

Within this approach, renewable energy sources are a priority for both developed and developing countries. They are an integral part of sustainable development, serving many objectives beyond the containment of climate change. Support for the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition proves this, with over half of the membership coming from developing countries.

Within this context the IEA analysis becomes even more interesting. By moving to meet its current renewable energy targets, the IEA analysis shows that the overall investment cost for the EU is substantially less than its share of

the global \$16 trillion. This is due to the switch to decentralised energy solutions whereby significant savings in transmission and distribution costs offset the higher investment cost of renewable energy generation. These findings show it may be possible for developing countries to leap-frog old, entrenched, technologies, reduce overall expenditure, minimise emissions and contribute to sustainable development in meeting their growing energy needs.

The cleanest energy of all is the energy we don't consume, and demand-side management is a priority for the EU, where the aim is as much about changing behaviour and lifestyles as it is about technological solutions. [Through smart public procurement, Governments fulfil the role of early adopters, pulling technologies into the market. Examples include the use of hydrogen buses in Germany, Spain, Luxembourg and elsewhere and the insulation of public buildings.] The EU encourages other Annex 1 countries to adopt a similar approach and we are convinced that the Kyoto Protocol provides the incentive needed to move in this direction.

The EU is showing its willingness to implement the project-based mechanisms with our emissions trading scheme. We want to work in partnership with others. The EU is convinced that the recognition of JI and CDM credits in our trading arrangements will offer important opportunities to promote the development and transfer of environmentally safe and sound technologies.

Friends and colleagues, let me link these issues to the process underway as part of this Convention. We want to help create enabling environments in developed and developing countries to assure the effective transfer of the most up to date technologies, and are committed to supporting developing countries by enhancing the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. I can point to the active involvement of EU member states through our multilateral and bilateral supports. Funding under the Bonn Declaration, for which the EU has committed \$369.6m per annum from 2005, will also be available to help meet these needs.

We are also working with partners in the exploration and development of future technologies, and when these become available, we will want to see them become globally available as a further element of the EU's current intense efforts to use technologies to address climate change.

Finally, we should not forget that technology transfer can also happen south-south and south-north. This is another of the valuable lessons we are learning from the debates in the JREC.

Thank you for your attention.