

PORTUGAL

Ponto da agenda: Panel discussion among ministers and other heads of delegation

“Mitigation of climate change: policies and their impacts”

10.^a CONFERÊNCIA DAS PARTES DA CONVENÇÃO DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS
SOBRE ALTERAÇÕES CLIMÁTICAS
HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

Objectivo – intervenção sobre políticas de mitigação

Organismo Responsável: Instituto do Ambiente

I. NOTA DE INTERVENÇÃO

Thanks MR./Madam Chairperson,

Portugal welcomes this opportunity to discuss climate change policies and measures.

We have listened carefully to other Parties' views and experiences in tackling this key global challenge.

We are all realizing, and indeed already experiencing, the effects of a changing climate.

As a Southern European country with a temperate climate Portugal has, for instance, experienced a severe heat wave in 2003, one that caused unprecedented forest fires and multibillion Euros in damages.

Portugal is fully committed to combating climate change and is already acting.

On the 10th anniversary of the UN Climate Change Convention, we are pleased that so much has already been done by the international Community, in particular with the approval – and soon entering into force, of the Kyoto Protocol.

We are, however, mindful that this is a long journey we have embarked upon so as to meeting the Convention's ultimate objective.

Portugal is already implementing ambitious climate policies and measures under the framework of the European and National Climate Change Programmes.

For instance, we are implementing a 39% target of electricity production from renewables by 2010, amounting to over 5 billion Euros of investment.

Additionally, in less than one month time we will see the birth of the groundbreaking EU emissions trading scheme, which involves 10.000 installations across the EU – 240 in Portugal.

This instrument covers roughly 40% of Portuguese emissions.

Our emissions are, however, growing at a pace that requires additional measures, and that's why in particular the National Climate Change Programme and energy strategy have

approved the analysis and preparation of carbon taxation measures.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates

Beginning next year, the EU and other Annex I Parties will have to demonstrate progress on mitigation policies. This process is a welcomed opportunity ~~to~~ both ~~to~~ show that we can and are taking action and, hopefully, to also convey our experience that this action, however challenging, is doable and affordable.

Climate change is a global challenge that requires a comprehensive and global response. Considerations on equity, differentiation and costs of implementation are at the heart of the debate, of course.

With this in mind Portugal and the EU are open to exchange views with other Parties, so as to better understand each other's perspectives on the future of the climate challenge.