



EU Presidency Voorzitterschap Vorsitz Présidence UE
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**Statement by Olivier Deleuze,
Belgian State Secretary for Energy and Sustainable Development,
at the Opening of the High Level Segment of the resumed Sixth Session of the
Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change, Bonn, 19 July 2001**

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

This introductory statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States will be short because we have no time to waste. The European Union is eager to get down to business and to start serious substantive negotiations to achieve a comprehensive and balanced agreement here in Bonn leading both to the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and a more effective implementation of the Framework Convention.

As Chancellor Schröder said when addressing COP5 from this very same rostrum two years ago: *"Kyoto was a great breakthrough. But it is not enough, of course, to simply leave the congress hall with a pile of papers. Rather, the Kyoto Protocol must enter into force as quickly as possible, by the year 2002 at the latest –that is ten years after the Rio Conference."* These words are just as pertinent today as they were two years ago. This week, we need another breakthrough to secure the results of a decade of multilateral negotiations and start addressing the global challenge of climate change seriously.

As EU Heads of State and Government reaffirmed in a declaration issued last Monday, the European Union and its Member States are determined to meet their own commitments under the Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and call upon all industrialized countries to take up their responsibilities in a common effort to succeed in this first step to combat climate change. These countries indeed committed themselves to take the lead in this effort when they ratified the Convention.

Climate change and the transition to a sustainable energy economy is the most urgent and important test of the industrialised countries' willingness to change their unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, as they pledged to do in Rio in 1992. **This is no longer a matter of choice, but of necessity.**



In the same declaration, EU leaders also stressed the importance of action in every region and hemisphere in accordance with the principle of **common but differentiated responsibilities**, which represents a cornerstone of the Framework Convention and the Protocol.

I will not reiterate the EU's well-known positions on the key issues in these negotiations, but merely state that we are ready for compromises with all negotiating partners in order to reach agreement here in Bonn on a balanced package of measures for the implementation of the Protocol and the Convention. But an overall compromise must respect three fundamental principles :

- ***Environmental integrity***, which means ensuring that its implementation eventually leads to real cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in all industrialized countries
- ***Equity and solidarity*** with developing countries in facing up to the global challenge of climate change and sustainable development
- ***Economic efficiency and flexibility*** in the choice of means to achieve the agreed targets, without undermining the primary environmental objective itself.

We do not believe that we are facing a choice between economy and ecology. Unless we act now to protect the Earth's climate system, we shall not be able to sustain economic growth and human development in any region of the world.

As UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in his commencement address at a major American university two months ago: *"What happens in the fight against global warming will tell us what kind of international community we are building: one that can anticipate threats, and then contain or avert them; or one that is content to reel from crisis to crisis, that feels little sense of global solidarity or responsibility."*

Thank you for your attention.