

the child was born in Paris & but with POLAND

little

11/12/2003

PH

1. First of all let me apologize for the absence of our minister for Environment Mr. Sleziak, but due to his other obligations he was not able to join us here today. I would like to start this short intervention with a personal reflection. This is exactly 6 years ago in one of those December nights or rather early mornings we were adopting the KP. It was probably a messy night but it was also a night of great hopes and expectations.

you & police
about 6 yr.
old child
this is an
all those
who had
been in it
will never
forget that
night of
adoption

Today we are unfortunately in a grimmer mood. Despite spending so much efforts the Protocol hasn't entered into force yet. What is worse we are farer and farer from meeting goals inscribed in the Convention not to mention its overarching goal, which realization is probably at even greater risk.

2. The growth of emissions in Annex II countries as well as in many developing countries is worrisome. With certain pride, we in Poland, look at the situation in our country as well as in other countries in transition. Despite the fact that those countries in the last decade were struggling with extremely difficult, although necessary economic and social reforms, climate change agenda was placed high in political priorities of the country and effective policies were implemented.

A number of strict measures have been introduced as f.ex. compulsory use of biofuels, energy taxation, or energy performance of buildings.

3. As far as the future is concerned the major change for us will happen as of May first 2004. Poland along with other 9 countries will join the Eu. Although our accession will not change the essence of our legal obligations under the Convention or Protocol, but it will mean a tremendous change in terms of domestic actions to combat climate change. We will be simply applying more ambitious policies proposed to combat climate change proposed by Brussels, and we will not be in a position to enjoy a more relaxed attitude which we could have been adopted otherwise, as we were already meeting all necessary targets.

the policy
which was
adopted
last
month
by the Gov.

There is no need to mention here how ambitious is the agenda of the EU, as many already spoke about it. Let me just say that we are committed to support it and implement it.

ministers
& the Council
will be

In some cases we are also going beyond measures proposed by Brussels. The example is the law on the use of biofuels.

This is an all together optimistic scenario.

4. But there is also a huge number of problems and challenges ahead of us. One of them is harmonization of sectoral energy related policies. Involvement of all stakeholders is also a must. Building awareness of climate change mitigation measures in a society like ours which is hit by huge unemployment (of nearly 18%) provoked, inter alia, by the restructuring of coal and other heavy industries is not an easy task. And without building public support for the future actions, in a democratic society, they would be simply deemed for failure. There is also a strong need for concentrating on a more balanced approach to adaptation and mitigation policies.

the other is a more balanced approach
to adaptation
& mitigation
measures.

5. The future of action at the international level leaves us a bit more perplex if one could be optimist or not. Many spoke about positive developments. Technology partnerships, impressive involvement of private sector are all good signs. But we also have to face the truth about the future of the process itself. And this can be done only while making a serious analysis of the weaknesses of the current approach. We should be able to ask ourselves, first of all, what are the reasons why we remain in a confrontational mood, instead of finding ways to work together for the future of next generations, the concept which nobody seems to contest. We should also reflect on how to approach the next commitment period, and to do this, even before the Protocol

mean that they
would be

as soon as possible

start of all by

while building thrust away
all parties.

all us -

for both
development
and social
justice

enters into force, but to do this in a manner which would make us capable to avoid the mistakes of the past. Is there any chance to rely more on the positive incentives than just the stick approach? These are some questions for the politicians to respond to and obviously such an informal round table could serve that purpose.

I guess I already spoke too long, so I finish here.

Thank you for your attention.

How to do this are questions