

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties**

**Statement by H.E. Ferenc Ligetvári, Minister of Environment of Hungary
on behalf of *Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia*
Bulgaria and Croatia associate themselves with the contents of the statement
(The Hague, 21 November 2000)**

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I address you on behalf of the countries of the Visegrad Group which embraces the cooperation of four Central European countries, the *Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia*. Our countries have closely interlinked histories, we have passed, to some extent, similar stages of the socio-economic transition during the recent decade and we all wish to achieve socially and environmentally sustainable development in our countries. We seek close cooperation with our neighbours, with the members of the European Union, as well as, other countries to achieve that goal and to cope with the regional and global environmental challenges.

This statement is presented also on behalf of *Bulgaria and Croatia* as they fully associate themselves with its contents.

The rapid increase of the greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere has become one of the greatest global environmental hazards. Our countries along with other transition countries shared the growing concern and admitted the historical responsibility. Consequently, we joined the group of the industrialized Parties included in the Annex I and undertook an emission stabilization target. Following the guidance of the scientific community and being aware of the importance of the precautionary principle, we recognized that more significant overall emission reduction would be unavoidable. As a first step, we adopted real reduction objectives in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol.

We make all efforts to meet these objectives. The recession that characterized the late 80s, early 90s is over; significant economic restructuring took place in our countries, so that we passed already key stages of the transition to a market economy. If efficient policies and measures were not implemented, then this new development path would again result in fast increase of the material and energy use with high rate of emissions of the greenhouse gases.

In order to solve these problems and more generally, to achieve the objectives of the Convention, to meet the emission reduction targets of the Protocol, we attribute great attention to the cooperation with all interested Parties and international organizations.

Our countries insist on to adopt such clear decisions on all three flexible mechanisms that attribute equal attention to all of them in course of their implementation. At the same time we recognize the need to have comprehensive inventory and effective compliance systems in force

However, we are of the opinion that these mechanisms should be supplemental to the actions undertaken domestically. Supplementarity, in real sense of this term, should mean that the overwhelming part of the national emission reduction targets has to be achieved by domestic measures and we support the idea to express such a ceiling in plain quantitative terms.

We consider the joint implementation mechanism as an important instrument to achieve the binding targets we are committed to. In order of their real environmental soundness, the project based activities in framework of this mechanism should be guided by priorities on preferential activities and activities which are either excluded from this mechanism or limited. The prioritized areas include for instance the economically effective use of renewable energy sources, and increasing energy efficiency. Land use related projects should be auxiliary to activities resulting in real emission reductions. Nuclear projects should not be eligible as joint implementation activities.

All eligible project technologies must respect criteria for the “best available technologies” and should be in line with the concept of “integrated pollution prevention and control”. The joint implementation projects and emission trading also should not be burdened by any additional costs which were not foreseen in the Kyoto Protocol.

We, the political leaders gathered here on behalf of our governments should agree at last on the essential “technicalities” without which neither the Convention, nor the Protocol will work. We are here to conclude a final deal on these issues. The sustainability of our common environment, and the long-term future of humankind must be the governing criteria when we accept compromises and adopt the important decisions. We should leave the Hague with such decisions, since these are necessary to assess the national social, economic and environmental implications of the implementation of these international legal instruments. These are prerequisites for a rapid ratification process in our countries, as well.

We support the initiative of the European Union and other states to ratify by 2002 and enforce the Protocol on the historic occasion of the “Rio+10”.

I thank you for your attention.