

Round table No. 1: "Climate change, adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development"

- Climate change is a global issue and requests a global response, which means that also mitigation of climate change is a global issue.
- Adaptation is a local or regional issue, however, besides local and regional responses it requests also a global response in terms of helping vulnerable developing countries to adapt to adverse impacts of changing climate.
- Mitigation and adaptation should go hand in hand, should not compete, both are needed now and in the future.
- There are positive links between adaptation and mitigation: mitigation will reduce, and to some extent prevent, adverse impacts of climate change and with this reduce the need for adaptation in the future. The more mitigation actions are delayed, the more the situation will worsen and the more costly response measures will be.
- One additional argument for the implementation of mitigation measures is that they have also positive impact on our environment, e.g. they have the potential to reduce air pollution.
- On the basis of scientific findings and taking into account many natural disasters in recent years which can be attributed to changing climate, urgent action in the fields of mitigation and adaptation are needed. We support EU, Canada and other who are determined to fulfil their obligations from the Kyoto Protocol even if it formally doesn't enter into force. Nevertheless, we call on the countries that have not yet ratified the protocol to do so.
- Talking about post-Kyoto actions we do not talk about commitments for developing countries, but rather about what has to be done to reduce adverse impacts of climate change, and when it has to be done; only then we can start the discussion about what individual countries can and must do.
- To some extent it is clear already now what and on what time scale has to be done, in other words, how much and following what paths we must reduce global emissions to avoid too big damages. Unfortunately, there is no agreement at the moment what is too big in this respect. We will strive to reach such an agreement in future years.
- It would be a pity if developing countries would follow the same path as developed countries had gone, which we realize is not the most appropriate one. For achieving necessary reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, low carbon, energy efficient technologies are needed, existing and those in the pipeline. They must be shared by all countries, especially with developing ones, which would enable them to develop in a sustainable manner without increasing their emissions too much. In this respect transfer of technologies is essential and we hope that a breakthrough will be achieved in this field in the near future.

(Slovenia)