

BILAG II

Draft intervention for Connie Hedegaard, Danish Minister for the Environment, during the panel discussion on technology and climate change at the UNFCCC COP 10 in Buenos Aires, December 16th 2004

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The Russian ratification is the best news in global environment policy for years.

Now let us use this new momentum to progress on the substantive work that will enable us to ensure the implementation of the Protocol. In this regard, technology is essential.

We need to use the potential in existing technologies in a much more progressive way, and I am sure that we can all agree that new and more sustainable technologies should be developed. Fine words however is one thing; to transform words into action requires substantial efforts.

We should all try to contribute in a concrete way to the technological development given our national circumstances and possibilities.

An ambitious and forward looking policy framework is essential to spur innovation. In this regard it is important that we acknowledge that caps on emissions plays a vital role in promoting the further development of technologies.

Effective transfer of these technologies to developing countries is crucial to help these countries develop and at the same time reduce the pressure on our climate system.

To me renewable energy seems to be one of the most promising way forward. The link between climate change and renewable energy cannot be overemphasised. Let us face reality: global energy consumption will increase substantially in the coming years with potential negative impacts on our climate.

Part of this increase will be the result of the fair and legitimate need for development in the developing countries. Our common challenge and responsibility is to achieve this development in a sustainable manner.

In my opinion one of the most crucial responses to the challenge for our global energy supply, is an urgent and substantial increase in the share of renewable energy sources, just as we all agreed in Johannesburg.

Let me also emphasise the huge potential in increasing energy efficiency. Advanced technologies are available with gains and positive effects for both the economy and the environment. Why should we wait, why be hesitant and reluctant, when we all know that immediate action is needed?

In Denmark, we have shown how a small oil-exporting country can become world leader in the area of wind energy turbines due to targeted political will and consistent efforts. The Danish wind industry is now the fastest growing industrial sector in Denmark. Average annual growth rates in this sector is more than 30 percent, creating thousands of new jobs.

To conclude let me emphasize, that the Kyoto Protocol must continue to be the basis in our efforts to combat climate change – a combat we must win to protect the environment, while at the same time creating a truly sustainable development for all of us.

I thank you very much for your attention.