

Kiev Ministerial Conference  
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Statement on the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment  
by  
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Mr. Chairman, distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is a great pleasure for me to be here and join all of you who expressed their thanks and appreciation to negotiators of the Protocol and to the Secretariat for the support provided during the negotiation. I am pleased that four years after the Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic proposed to consider starting negotiation of the Protocol to the participants of the London Conference "Environment and Health", we have this Protocol ready to be adopted.

These days, the sectoral integration is one of the most important challenges. The Protocol responds to it in two directions:

- first, it has been developed and needs to be implemented in close co-operation between environment and health sectors;
- second, it is a powerful instrument to take environmental and health concerns seriously into account by other sectors.

But if one goal is accomplished, another ones appear. Now, we should concentrate on further developing of appropriate assessment methods covering both environmental and health issues. And we need to consider, how economic and social aspects could be reflected in environmental and health policies - we have to consider how sustainable assessment could be addressed.

I hope that these goals will be achieved as successfully as the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention.

Thank you for your attention.