

Kiev Ministerial Conference
21-23 May 2003

Statement on the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
by
H.E. Ljubomir Janev - Minister of Environment & Physical Planning, Republic of Macedonia

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends

Allow me at the beginning to express my gratitude to the host of the Kyiv Conference, for successful organization and the possibility to be part of such an event, as is the adoption of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment. This is a document that gives another guarantee that we are on the right track in making solid ground for healthy environment and better life for the citizens of our Earth, taking into account the principles of sustainability.

Following the recommendation of Rio, London, Johannesburg and other great events which marked the movement for healthy environment, access to clean drinking water, protection of biodiversity and sustainable development, the Republic of Macedonia through its Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and other ministries in the Government, related to the planning and providing the quality of living, for a longer period is active in the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements.

Our representatives have also taken active participation in drafting the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, and we were host of the sixth meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group, where great improvement in the work was achieved. That was one modest contribution of my Country towards our common goal. Therefore, I feel this is the right moment to express my gratitude to the Secretariat of the Expo Convention, for the immense support given in the process of drafting the Protocol. Also, I would like to thank all host countries of the working meetings and all donors, who all together have enable this moment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm deeply convinced that the Protocol with its provisions will be a document that will enable the countries throughout the region to establish a system of assessment of the effects on environment, including human health, within the process of development the plans and programmes and to certain degree setting up the policies and legislation on national as well as international level.

Therefore, as representative of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia I have been authorized to sign the Protocol and give my modest contribution to its future wide acceptance and I hope also successful implementation.

I want to use the opportunity to inform you that in a process of wide consultation, all ministers in our Government have given their voice for the acceptability of this Protocol, as well as the draft-Resolution as proposed by the ad-hoc Working Group.

Last but not least, allow me once again to greet all of you and wish you successful work at the Kyiv Conference, and certainly in the implementation of the activities to follow after the adoption of the Protocol.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the time you provide me to extend my message to this forum.