

**ADDRESS OF  
H. E. MR BORIS TADIĆ  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
AT THE OPENING OF  
SIXTH UNECE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE"**

MR. CHAIRMAN,  
EXCELLENCIES  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME TO ADDRESS YOU AT THE OPENING OF SIXTH UNITED NATION ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE". I AM PLEASED TO WELCOME DELEGATES FROM 56 COUNTRIES TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA. THIS IS BY FAR THE BIGGEST EUROPEAN HIGH LEVEL GATHERING IN SERBIA SINCE THE DEMOCRATIC CHANGES TOOK PLACE IN 2000. DURING THESE SEVEN YEARS OF DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT, WE HAVE INVESTED GREAT EFFORT TO BRING SERBIA CLOSER TO THE MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION.

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE VERY HIGH ON OUR DEVELOPMENT AGENDA. AFTER TWO YEARS OF HARD WORK, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT DRAFT STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SERBIA WILL BE PRESENTED LATER TODAY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

CONTEMPORARY HUMANKIND IS FACED WITH MANY CHALLENGES. AMONG THOSE, THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND ISSUES REFLECT IN THE BEST WAY ALL COMPLEXITY OF OUR WORLD AND SURVIVAL OF OUR CIVILISATION. THE EXISTING MODELS OF EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION HAVE REACHED THE CROSSROAD. WE ARE FINALLY BECOMING AWARE THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS APPLYING DIFFERENT MEASURES IN ATTEMPT TO COPE WITH GROWING DEMANDS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT BASED ON THE EXISTING MODELS OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION, AND AT THE SAME TIME OBVIOUS NEGATIVE IMPACT OF SUCH MODELS. CLEARLY, GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS (CLIMATE CHANGE, OZONE DEPLETION, DESERTIFICATION, STATE OF WATER RESOURCES, DESTRUCTION OF BIODIVERSITY ETC.,) AFFECT INCREASING NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND THEIR EVERYDAY EXISTENCE.

THE RELATION BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ON GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS AND INTERNATIONAL STABILITY, PEACE AND SECURITY IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS. THIS IS A GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR OUR ACTION IN THIS FIELD. FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW, THIS MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IS AN IMPORTANT STEP AND CHANCE TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE RESULTS ACHIEVED BETWEEN TWO CONFERENCES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND MANY OTHER FIELDS CLOSELY RELATED TO IT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

RESPECT FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT IS RESPECT FOR OURSELVES. A REAL INSIGHT INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT A RADICAL CHANGE IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW LIFE FUNCTIONS ON OUR PLANET. TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE NEED A NEW ETHICS AS A BASIS OF OUR FUTURE RELATION TOWARDS NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN GENERAL.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SHOULD BE TREATED AS ISSUES OF HIGHEST POLITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION, AND AS BASIC PREREQUISITES FOR STABILITY OF SOCIETIES IN EVERY REGION, COUNTRY AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, AND ESPECIALLY EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE, IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE AS STRESSED AT KIEV CONFERENCE.

DEAR FRIENDS,

ONE OF IMPORTANT CHALLENGES BEFORE US IS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS MECHANISMS FOR MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF BUSINESS SUBJECTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, BY INTRODUCTION OF MORE EFFICIENT ECONOMIC AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT ON THE GLOBAL LEVEL BECAUSE OF PROCESSES OF GLOBALISATION IN GENERAL AND ESPECIALLY OF GLOBALISATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ITS IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

THEREFORE, I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE INTRODUCTION OF TAX EXEMPTION FOR CLEAN TRANSPORT WITH ZERO EMISSION, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A STRONG INCENTIVE FOR THE PRODUCTION, MARKETING AND USE OF CLEAN FUELS ON VOLUNTARY BASIS, ENCOURAGE THE RENEWAL OF THE CAR FLEET AND INFLUENCE CONSUMER'S BEHAVIOR TOWARDS ZERO EMISSIONS TRANSPORT.

THE GOAL OF THIS INITIATIVE WOULD BE TO ACHIEVE 20% ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES BY 2020. BY THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO INITIATE DRAFTING OF THE AGREEMENT "ZERO EMISSION – ZERO TAX", WHICH ACCEPTATION BY COUNTRIES WILL COMMIT THEM TO INTRODUCE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PRODUCTION AND PLACING ON THE MARKET OF ZERO

EMISSION VEHICLES. "ZERO EMISSION – ZERO TAX" AGREEMENT WOULD BE OFFERED FOR SIGNING TO ALL UNECE COUNTRIES, AIMING TO COME TO FORCE WITHIN NEXT 5 YEARS.

I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE BY GIVING CONTRIBUTION TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND DRAFTING OF RELATED AGREEMENT.

EXCELLENCIES,

POSITION OF COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION DESERVES SPECIAL ATTENTION AND SHOULD BE REGARDED AS ONE OF RESPONSIBILITY OF DEVELOPED MEMBERS OF THE UNECE. THEY SHOULD HELP THE PROCESS OF FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF CONDITIONS FOR LONG TIME, STABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INVESTMENTS IN THESE COUNTRIES. SUCH AN APPROACH COULD HELP COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION TO SOLVE SUCCESSFULLY ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN GENERAL, CONTRIBUTING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THE REGION AS A WHOLE.

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA HAS, AFTER NORMALIZING ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, UNDERTAKEN MANY STEPS TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THANKS TO THE SUPPORT, PRIMARILY OF THE EU, GOOD RESULTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED - A NUMBER OF SYSTEM LEGAL ACTS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED, MEASURES HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN AIMED AT CAPACITY STRENGTHENING, A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TREATIES HAVE BEEN RATIFIED ETC. OTHER IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES WILL FOLLOW IN THE FUTURE INCLUDING MORE ACTIVE REGIONAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE IMPORTANT AND STILL UNUSED OR ONLY PARTIALLY USED POTENTIALS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SOLVING DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND THAT MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE. A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION COULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS THAT GOAL. ALSO, THE IDEA CONCERNING ADOPTION OF A CONVENTION FOR PROTECTION OF MOUNTAIN REGIONS OF SEE DESERVES ATTENTION.

I AM GLAD TO MENTION THAT THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA INITIATED A CONSULTATION PROCESS WITHIN SEE COUNTRIES AND UNDER THE UNECE FRAMEWORK AIMED AT ENHANCING SUB REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CLIMATE CHANGE (THE SO-CALLED BELGRADE INITIATIVE). THIS ACTIVITY WOULD BE REALIZED THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF VIRTUAL CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE IN BELGRADE THAT WOULD COOPERATE WITH ALL RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. I WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION THE FACT THAT SERBIA HAS A LONG TRADITION IN CLIMATE RESEARCH. PROFESSOR MILUTIN MILANKOVIC, ONE OF BEST KNOWN

CLIMATOLOGISTS OF ALL TIMES, LIVED AND WORKED HERE IN BELGRADE. MILANKOVIC THEORY ON ASTRONOMICAL CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS STILL VALID.

MR. CHAIRMAN,  
EXCELLENCIES,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I HOPE THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL HAVE BETTER PLACE TO LIVE THAN THE ONE WE INHERITED FROM OUR ANCESTORS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION. I WISH YOU SUCCESSFUL AND FRUITFUL WORK.