



**STATEMENT OF SPAIN  
JAIME ALEJANDRE MARTINEZ  
DIRECTOR GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ASSESSMENT  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
SPAIN**

Mr Chairman,

First of all, we are grateful with the government of Serbia for its hospitality. We would also like to support the statement made by Portugal on behalf of the European Union.

As many other previous speakers have also expressed, we are looking forward to a successful outcome of this conference.

The Environment for Europe Process (EfE) is an important framework for multilateral cooperation in the whole UNECE Region that has contributed to achieve progresses in sustainable development objectives in the region and offers a unique forum to address multiple related issues in an integrated manner.

In this regard, we support the continuation of this process that should be kept open for all interested countries in the region. But, at the same time should be well-focused and result-oriented.

Mr Chairman

We share the idea of the need to build those solid and strong “bridges” which are in the banner of our conference. But more important is to understand where those bridges are taking us: to a common future if we are generous enough to cooperate, or to nowhere if we insist in egoistic isolated national positions.

Although significant progress has been achieved in the improvement of environmental protection, we need to look into the future due to the remaining and increasing environmental stresses and the new challenges we are facing. Among these we can consider migratory movements, energy supply and new patterns of consumption and production.

For all these new challenges we need better instruments in an improved framework.

Mr Chairman,

Regarding the assessment and implementation activities we would like, first of all, to congratulate the European Environment Agency for the successful



preparation of the forth assessment, the Belgrade report we have just been presented.

Taking into account some of the findings of the report we must note with concern that, in spite of some progresses, there is yet much to do and we have to do it better.

This idea also has to guide us to redefine the EfE process for its future. We need to make monitoring and assessment an effective tool for environmental policy. Only the things we measure we can change them. So we need good environmental indicators helpful to evaluate regularly the progress achieved and lead the consequent following political efforts. In this sense, in Spain we issue yearly an environmental profile of Spain with more than 70 indicators available also in English in the Spanish Ministry of Environment web page.

More over, we need to expend existing partnerships at pan-european and regional levels including also the consideration of external factors and regions that unquestionably affect our own UNECE region.

Mr Chairman,

today, more than ever, we need to cooperate and work together for a common future. By its own nature, environment does not know of frontiers, but it is within each of our countries where we can find the ways to achieve regionally the always difficult goal of cooperation for global development.

We are sure this conference will be the beginning of a common success, thank you Mr Chairman.

10<sup>th</sup> October 2007