



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA¹
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS
AND WATERS ADMINISTRATION

BELGRADE CONFERENCE

Thursday, 11 October 2007

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (b) South-East European perspectives. *Plenary session*

Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to share with you the Albanian position on the climate change issues in this important meeting of "Environment for Europe".

First of all I would like to thank the UNECE for organizing of such event and at the same time I would like to thank the Serbian Government for hosting this conference in Belgrade.

The Albanian government commitment on climate change started in 1995, after being party to the convention. In 2005, Albania became a signatory country of the Kyoto Protocol where it holds the same status, when means no-emission reduction targets. Albanian national policy tends to develop country's institutional

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and technical capacities to address climate change issues into national planning and development.

Actually, Albania is a relatively low net emitter of greenhouse gases. More specifically, Albania contributes to the global greenhouse gas emissions with an average value of 7.5 Million tones of CO₂/year. However, predictions indicate higher growth rates of emissions if no reduction measures are undertaken on time.

Taking into consideration the effects of climate change in the global level, our region, and especially Albania will be affected with high temperatures, less precipitation and sea level rise. Albania is influenced by climate changes and conditions which increase the frequency of extended droughts, floods, and other climate extremes phenomena. These facts will affect tourism, agriculture, and ecosystems. Albania's coast is found to be one of the most vulnerable parts of the country by the current and expected impacts of climate changes.

Albanian national policy on energy aims at increasing the security of energy supply through optimization of the supply and efficient consumption by ensuring at the same time minimal impact to the environment. It addresses the issue of the reduction of the growth

rate of the greenhouse gas emissions through introduction of climate and environmental friendly technologies such as Solar and Wind energy, Small Hydro Power Plants and energy efficiency technologies.

During this year the Albanian Government has approved 25 small Hydro Power Plants with a capacity from 2-10 Mega Watt to be constructed. Six investors companies have applied to the Ministry of environment to be licensed for wind farm construction.

With the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, Albania became eligible to host Clean Development Mechanism Projects. The first CDM project for Albania is financed by the Bio-Carbon Fund of the World Bank. This project will help improving the environment and the social life of many communes of Albania with the incomes coming from the exchange of the credits generated by assisted natural regeneration of forests.

However, the impacts of Climate change in our region will not be overcome without a strong collaboration among our countries and the support of specialized international organizations.

We need to strengthen our technical and scientific cooperation contributing to climate monitoring, forecasting, and assessments of the influence of climate changes on human health, numerous of economic activities and the availability of natural resources, as well as the early identification of problems and adoption of measures and strategies for adaptation.

Taking into account the status of our area, challenges that we face, the issue of energy, and our main goal for EU integration, make the establishment of a center in our region, without doubts a contribution to our efforts for putting under control the climate change issues.

I am convinced and I support the necessity of joint actions. In this regard Albania will try to give its contribution in regional and global level to face with climate changes and its consequences.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Prof. Dr. Lufter XHUVELI

**Minister of Environment, Forests and
Water Administration**