

Ms. Agnieszka Bolesta
Undersecretary of State Ministry of the Environment
Poland

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguish Delegates

1. The main objective of policies should be the promotion of the sustainable development principle, which must take into account all aspects - environmental, social and economic. Objectives should be clearly specified from this point of view, including the most important ones concerning the protection of climate, biodiversity, soils. It could be said that industry and infrastructure development causes depletion of raw material resources and increase in greenhouse gasses emission. Land reclamation, carried out on an enormous scale, contributes to faster water drainage, thus intensifying the desertification process. Inappropriate spatial development and increased infrastructure results in decreasing biologically active areas and lead to rapid extinction of species. Agriculture contributes to soil degradation by intensifying production. Forestry is transforming into plantations producing wood. Is it possible to integrate all these processes with the environment protection, in a way that does not disturb development, but, on the contrary, secures long-term, sustainable development?

2. Polish experiences proved that such policy may be implemented and referring to that what was said a while ago by Mr. M. Belka. I like to say that between 1988 - 2005, Poland achieved the increase of GDP by about 60%, and, at the same time, the reduction of greenhouse gasses emission by 32%. By doing so, Poland has more than fulfilled its obligations resulting from the Kyoto protocol (established at 6%), and contributed to global actions for stopping climate changes. This could be prove how much could be obtain by sustainable development approach and also approve how important is competitiveness which in our case was the main driven force for transformation.

3. Finally, I would like to emphasize that exchange of experiences on environmental policy formulation and implementation, particularly on good practises could bring important positive effects for many countries.

Thank you for your attention.