

There were considerable differences on a few key aspects of QELRO'S. Specifically, some delegations including Germany and AOSIS supported a gas by gas approach, while others including Canada, a comprehensive approach. As well, some supported a single QELRO (Germany), while many others saw differentiated goals as more appropriate.

The USA came out for quote targets and timetables unquote, a phrase which it repeated numerous times. This is a major change from Berlin when the use of term targets and timetables was not in USA lexicon. It was, however, couched with phrases such as cost effective, national circumstances and flexibility. The USA indicated that it will be doing analysis of various protocol proposals which it will share at COP2.

No specific EU QELRO was mentioned except that emphasis was on 2005 and 2010 years, with 2020 cited as a possible longer term perspective. EU also noted possibility of Annex 1 or OECD collective objectives (EU bubble was not mentioned) and the importance of related objectives such as efficiency improvements. Germany proposed an international target of 10 per cent reduction of CO2 by 2005 and 15-20 per cent under 1990 levels by 2010 while Austria reiterated support for the Toronto target of 20 per cent reduction by 2005. Also of particular note was the proposal by Poland for a separate protocol for Economies in Transition, reflecting their need for economic restructuring vis a vis other Annex 1 countries.

Canada raised a number of questions regarding the quote bubble concept unquote and noted that a differentiated approach must take into account different countries' national circumstances. On the issue of time frames, Canada introduced idea of a medium to long term QELRO, with shorter term milestones, benchmarks and reviews to ensure Parties stay on track. Candel also provided examples of how performance indicators could play an important role in tracking progress. AGBM conclusions picked up on both the idea of a longer time horizon to optimize investment decisions with shorter term milestones, and on development of performance indicators.

The conclusions also reflect a proposal by the Chairman of the AGBM to hold roundtables to discuss specific aspects of QELRO'S, inviting all Parties to participate. No themes have yet been defined for the roundtables.

Non-Annex 1 Commitments: Advancing the implementation of Art. 4.1

On engaging developing countries in the Convention, the dynamics were much more positive and less confrontational at this session compared to the previous sessions which were affected by the typical north-south debate. The areas highlighted in the interventions included non-Annex 1 National Communications, capacity building, technology and financial requirements of developing countries, and the GEF funding. Several developing