

3. Policies and Measures:

Together with our partners in the European Union we have always been committed to agreeing on coordinated policies and measures - that is to say policies and measures to be taken by all Annex I Parties. We feel that a purely optional menu would not justify the tremendous effort associated with the identification and negotiation of policies and measures for a legal instrument. The considerable time involved also requires that we start with a limited number of particularly promising priority areas. We feel that these are areas in which measures would only be taken, can only realistically be expected or only promise success if they are implemented jointly on an international level. A few examples of this are the taxing of aircraft fuel, efficiency standards and labelling for products such as cars as well as economic instruments.

Under no circumstances does this mean that the Contracting Parties should be discouraged from implementing the entire spectrum of possible measures in their national programmes. It will be much rather the case that, above and beyond measures, which are coordinated at an international level, many other policies and measures will be indispensable in order to achieve ambitious quantified limitation and reduction objectives within the meaning of Article 2 of the Convention. However, we feel it is wise here to give countries the flexibility to choose the most suitable and effective measures in accordance with their specific national situation. The common strategy of the European Union is a good example of this two-track procedure.

4. Quantified limitation and reduction objectives

- According to the Berlin Mandate, objectives of this nature must be agreed as a second element alongside these policies and measures. Establishing desirable medium- and long-term objectives in emission reductions sets a clear framework for the development and implementation of national and regional programmes on precautionary action for climate protection and allow policy makers and other actors to optimize the range of available measures.
- The national target of the German government is well-known. Federal Chancellor Kohl reaffirmed this in Berlin when he said that Germany remains committed to reducing the 1990 level of its CO₂ emissions by 25% by the year 2005. Moreover, as early as its first National Communications under the Framework Convention on Climate Change