

Coverage of greenhouse gases

Another question that has to be resolved is the coverage of the various greenhouse gases. Although the Berlin Mandate clearly indicates that all greenhouse gases, both sources and sinks as well as all relevant sectors should be addressed in the protocol, there is still a choice to be made between a so called gas-by-gas approach and an approach where gases are put in one basket using the IPCC's Global Warming Potential to determine their total. The EU is not taking a formal position on this question at this stage. The two possibilities are being pursued in the EU.

Specified time-frames

On the question of the time-frames to go with quantified emission objectives the Berlin Mandate suggests the years 2005, 2010 and 2020. There are two important aspects to take into consideration:

- (1) in view of the ultimate objective of the Convention and IPCC's message that overall global emissions below the current levels will be required to meet that objective, a protocol should encourage fundamental changes in the trends of greenhouse gas emissions; this would call for longer time-frames to create a reliable strategic framework for planning and investment decisions
- (2) in view of the need for accountability of Parties and to facilitate regular stock taking regarding the development of overall emissions shorter time frames are also important.

The EU therefore considers it appropriate to include in the protocol the time-frames specified in the Berlin Mandate: 2005 and 2010 as preferable and 2020 as a possible longer term perspective.