

GERMANY

1. Official Position

The Federal Government decided to work towards a heavy reduction of CO₂ emissions in Germany. Because of the need for international action it also decided to work towards international agreements for the protection of the climate, especially to reduce CO₂ emissions.

Being an important element of an overall strategy to deal with climate change, the federal government is developing a concept for using the national potentials to reduce CO₂ emissions. This will consider international agreements and the effects on economic and social goals. An interministerial working group has been established which prepared a report on possible measures to reduce CO₂ emissions. The Federal Government accepted the report and asked the group to continue work. It is going to prepare further suggestions to reduce energy related emissions of CO₂ - oriented at a 25 per cent reduction by 2005 in former West Germany and at a higher reduction in former East Germany from 1987 levels - and to reduce other greenhouse gas emissions.

The concept will consider CO₂ reduction in the energy sector in general, in transportation, in the housing and residential sector, by new technologies and also in agriculture and forestry including sinks.

The Government is preparing concrete measures

- to use economic instruments with priority;
- to improve the energy law;
- to tighten standards for insulation and efficiency in heating systems;