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STATEMENT BY UNITED KINGDOM
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES

(Bonn, 2-12 June 1998)

SBSTA 8 - Agenda item 8(c)
SBI 8 - Agenda item 8(c)

CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM

I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

The European Union welcomes the clean development mechanism as a means to promote global emissions reductions while promoting sustainable development, providing investment and building capacity for the future in developing countries. But it must work in an effective and efficient manner and ensure real and verifiable environmental benefits.

There are many details still to agree and we clearly need to prioritise our work. At this meeting, we need to agree a well-defined timetable for action at COP 4 and beyond. We would like to say a few words about what that timetable might look like.

Decision 1.CP3 sets one specific task for COP 4 in relation to the CDM, which is to consider the implications of early (that is pre-2008) crediting. The EU agrees this is important. But this should be seen in the wider context of making the CDM truly effective and operational in promoting long term reductions and sustainable development. We think it essential for COP 4 to agree on what contribution CDM activities could make to Annex I Parties' QELROs within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol - in other words, to define the term "part of" in Article 12.3 of the Protocol. It is a well-known position of the EU and many other Parties that developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions and that domestic actions should be the main means of achieving reductions - which we believe requires the definition of a concrete ceiling on the use of flexible mechanisms. The "part" which is required to be determined under Article 12.3(b) of the Protocol should therefore be determined in a way which ensures that Annex I Parties overall still achieve a significant reduction in their emissions. The EU looks forward to constructive discussion on this during this meeting.