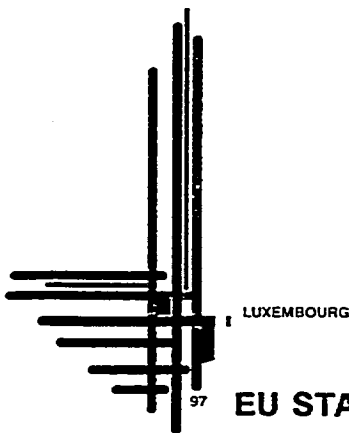


**STATEMENT BY LUXEMBOURG
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

(Bonn, 20-29 October 1997)



EU STATEMENT FOR THE OPENING SESSION OF AGBM

Mr Chairman,

Luxembourg, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, would like to thank and congratulate you for the Chairman's negotiating text you have put before us. We will be very happy to support you in taking it as the basis of our work. Of course there are areas where we have concerns or where we want to make improvements. We will prioritise these and work with you and other Parties to achieve consensus.

Two particular areas we will want to focus on are Article 2 on policies and measures, and Articles 12 and 13 on advancing the implementation of Article 4.1 and the associated financial provisions, where we are concerned that the Protocol should encompass the full remit of the Berlin Mandate. We would also note that, whilst we applaud your admirably short preamble and introduction to the Protocol, we remain of the view that an article specifying in quantitative terms the objective of the Convention is necessary to reflect the development in the science since the Convention was adopted. And we remain concerned at the lack of definition on a compliance regime in Article 9. We believe the Protocol needs a strong and effective compliance regime, taking account of the type, degree, and frequency of non-compliance.

Mr Chairman, at the last AGBM, you and other Parties asked us to provide further text to clarify how legally binding targets would operate in the case of Parties choosing to achieve targets jointly, as in the case of the EU bubble. I am pleased to say that when our Ministers met at the Environment Council last week, they agreed draft legal text on this which has now been forwarded to you and circulated to Parties. I will ask the United Kingdom to introduce it shortly.