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Danish Delegation

31 October 1995

Statement by Denmark on Item 3b:
Quantified emission limitation
and reduction objectives within
specified time frames.

Denmark fully supports the statement by the European Union, presented by Spain, on quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives within specified time frames, and wishes to reiterate a few points.

As mentioned by Spain, we have noted with some interest that the IPCC WGII has recognized the existence of a significant technological potential for reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in the near future. A large part of these reductions could, in our opinion, be realized now, even while we are still working on the Berlin Mandate.

To take an example, one of the elements of twenty years of ambitious Danish energy policy has been the development of high-efficiency, solid fuel fired power plants, which have then been used in combined heat and power systems. This development has certainly been one of the key elements in the emission reductions realized up till now.

We have mentioned power plant technologies here, because investments in this sector have long-ranging consequences. A power plant built today, with even only a few percent less than the optimum energy efficiency obtainable today will add unnecessarily to CO2 emissions to the atmosphere for maybe 20 -30- 40 years. How can this be avoided?

From our point of view, one answer is that we would certainly want to develop targets and timetables which necessitate the earliest possible application of the best available technology. And we think that this can be brought about if initially we focus discussions within the Berlin Mandate on the establishment of aggressive reduction objectives in the earliest possible part of the time frame. This means focussing on the year 2005, and it could take the form of the 20% reduction by 2005, the Toronto target, which still forms the basis for the Danish energy policy - but we will certainly also encourage discussions on the development of incentives, that specifically encourage early action, as suggested by the Netherlands.