

REPORT OF THE INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE CANADIAN DELEGATION
Eighth Meeting of Subsidiary Bodies
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
June 2 - 12, 1998, Bonn

- The Bonn sessions ended on Friday June 12, 1998 after approving a series of papers that will be the basis of a draft agenda for discussion at the fourth Conference of the Parties (COP-4) to be held in November in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This particular meeting of the subsidiary bodies failed to address the jumbled and inter-linked basket of issues left in the wake of Kyoto. The basket of issues will need to be dealt with at the ninth meeting of the subsidiary bodies in Buenos Aires just prior to COP-4. If the FCC Secretariat performs a small miracle during the summer and produces a coherent agenda for laying out the issues, ministers could make decisions at COP-4. Decisions taken at COP-4 will indicate next steps for a program of work for fleshing out the flexibility mechanisms and the other matters related to operationalizing the Protocol.
- The main task at the eighth meeting of the subsidiary bodies of the Framework Convention on Climate change (FCC) was to determine how to proceed with the identification and definition of next steps in the process. Because ministers in Kyoto did not fully deal with some important political matters, the challenge in Bonn was twofold. First, the session had to work through the politics of issues and sort out what could be dealt with at the technical level. Only then could the issues be laid out in a comprehensive package for COP-4. Second, the meetings had to come to a landing on the allocation of work between the two subsidiary bodies and the sequencing of that work.
- The Bonn sessions were aimed at the further elaboration of key features of the Protocol, with emphasis on guidelines for International Emissions Trading (IET), Joint Implementation (JI - projects with Annex 1 countries) and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). In addition to being very active in pursuing objectives related to the above, Canada wanted to ensure new developments in the international negotiations do not preclude or constrain domestic options and that the development methodologies for the coverage of the six gases and sinks moves ahead.
- Canada earned some praise from delegates for the skilful co-chairing of a difficult contact group looking at the adequacy of commitments under Article 4.2 (a) & (b) of the Convention. Developing nations were very nervous at the opening of a discussion that could lead to their taking on some commitments to reduce emissions. Canada also did well on the issue of sinks and land use changes. In terms of the flexibility mechanisms, Canada played a very positive and supportive role but there was little progress in the end.