

**Seminar of Governmental Experts (16-17 May 2005)**  
**Abstract of a presentation by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Community and its member States**

**Policy integration challenge**

The challenge is to integrate effective and appropriate responses to climate change in all relevant policy areas. Greenhouse gas emissions are related to processes and activities in other policy areas: development, land use, investment, transport and environment. For example: energy use is essential for social and economic development, but often leads to greenhouse gas emissions at the same time. On the other hand, emissions lead to climate change impacts that jeopardize development.

These other policy areas have countless other objectives, beyond combating climate change: e.g. access to energy and technology, economic development, combating air pollution, preservation of biodiversity and combating desertification. Co-benefits of policies on climate change and other areas may well exist. Often emission reductions are being achieved for reasons other than climate change, for example reduction of local air pollution for health reasons. The achievement of sustainable development objectives (for example related to energy, land use and local environmental problems) can go hand in hand with controlling greenhouse gas emissions. Likewise, policies aiming at the reduction of greenhouse gases can have benefits in other areas: e.g. developing technologies can lead to positive employment effects.

Approaches to optimise the positive synergies between climate change and other policy areas should be discussed. In this process key decision makers when it comes to e.g. economic development and investments in technologies must be involved. This implies involving stakeholders – both at the domestic and at the international level – other ministries (e.g. energy, development and transport), private sector, multinational corporations and multilateral organisations.