

Überschrift/Titel:	Kyoto is the beginning
Untertitel:	The future of climate protection must be based on our experience
Redner/in:	Federal Minister Jürgen Trittin
Anlass:	Seminar of Governmental Experts of the UNFCCC
Ort:	Bonn

Joke Waller-Hunter,
Ginés González García,
Mr Chow, Mr Konishi,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

If we want to talk about the future of climate protection, where else should we do this but in Bonn? Not just because of the lovely surroundings. People here concentrate on what has to be done and on how to accomplish it together. This was already true during Bonn's half century as capital city. The provisional arrangement was not relevant, **what mattered were results.**

As a UN city, Bonn continues to uphold this tradition. This is why conferences in Bonn have often achieved amazing results.

↳ In summer 2001, we were able to accomplish in Bonn what we did not finish in The Hague. We concluded the 6th session of the Conference of the Parties with a result, even though many saw the withdrawal of the USA as marking the end of the Kyoto Protocol. **Today we have an internationally binding agreement for limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Bonn 2001 laid the groundwork for this.**

- ↳ This spring at the *Commission on Sustainable Development* we agreed on measures to provide 1 billion people with access to clean water by 2015, thus helping to overcome poverty and underdevelopment. **This would have been inconceivable without the preparatory work of the 2002 Bonn Conference on Freshwater.**
- ↳ Also in Bonn, at the *renewables2004* Conference last year, joint exertions led to countries, international organisations and financial institutions promising measures geared to increasing the use of renewable energies. **This will save 1.2 billion tonnes of CO₂ each year by 2015!**

I hope the spirit of Bonn will prevail at this seminar. We need common solutions for the most serious environmental challenge of our time. **Climate change is already a harsh reality.** Climate change already claims human life and burdens us with heavy costs. **Climate change is a massive obstacle to development.** And the very countries least responsible for climate change are the ones which suffer most from it.

We must prevent the global temperature from rising by more than 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. A global warming of 2 degrees or more increases the likelihood of disastrous and irreversible damage: **Can you imagine a world without the Amazon rainforest or the Greenland ice sheet?** The glaciers in Europe's Alps will dwindle to nothing if global temperature rises by 2 degrees. **But can any of you imagine what will happen if the Gulf Stream shuts down?**

This is where adaptation reaches its limits. It becomes simply unaffordable. **We must avert this. We must take preventive action.**

If we want to stay below 2°C, **we must halve global greenhouse gas emissions by the middle of this century.** Therefore everyone must contribute to solving this global problem, in accordance with their responsibilities and capabilities. Kyoto was

the first important step towards this. Above all, we must ensure that the climate process continues beyond 2012. This was emphasised once more by **EU heads of state and government** at their spring summit. They noted that to achieve this, **industrialised countries must save between 15% and 30% of their greenhouse gases by 2020.**

The 10th session of the Conference of the Parties chaired by Ginés González García reminded us that every debate on further development must begin with a review of implementation of climate commitments. This highlights the major advantage we enjoy compared to the pre-Kyoto era: Our growing wealth of experience helps us **to practice efficient climate protection.** In Europe today, a tonne of CO₂ has a price – through emissions trading introduced by the EU.

Today we know: **Climate protection** is not only a challenge. Climate protection is an opportunity for modern technology – **an opportunity for increasing competitiveness.** The *cap and trade* system has proved successful. Through flexible mechanisms it is already beginning to steer investments in the right direction - **especially with clean development activities.**

Today, alongside traditional foreign direct investment, alongside development assistance, billions are invested in modern climate-friendly technologies. All countries, but especially developing countries, will benefit from this!

Why should they have to tread the same long and mistaken path of obsolete, carbon intensive technologies which industrialised countries took? **Is it not wiser to invest directly in climate-friendly development?** It is certainly more cost-efficient.

It is clear: **economic development and climate protection can go hand in hand!** Through renewable energies, for example, poor, rural regions can also gain access to modern, low-cost energy without burdening the climate. **In times of high raw materials prices, resource efficiency provides a competitive edge.**

We do not have much time to create adequate framework conditions. Each year without mitigation measures is a year which drives the human and financial cost of adaptation steeply upwards. COP 10 in Buenos Aires transferred today's debate to you, the government experts, so that you can conduct an open discussion based on your expert knowledge. Use this freedom to jointly consider the political framework conditions needed to achieve climate protection swiftly, fairly and comprehensively.

Climate protection must not end in 2012. Companies and investors want to plan beyond 2012. **Without a continuation of the climate process, the clean development measures now initiated will have no future after 2012.**

We must send a signal to companies and civil society very soon, that **Kyoto was the first of many steps. The next Climate Conference in December in Montreal must decide on starting concrete negotiations.** You can provide a good and sound basis for this.

I wish all of us at this seminar here in Bonn fruitful and result-oriented discussions.