

Seminar of Governmental Experts (16-17 May 2005)
Abstract of a presentation by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on behalf of the European Community and its member States

The Climate Change Challenge

The EU holds the view that the impacts of climate change associated with a temperature increase of 2°C or greater, compared to pre-industrial levels, would be severe enough to be classified as dangerous. Recent scientific research has identified increasing risks above this level and indeed suggests that the risks of climate change may be greater than previously reported. Failure to limit climate change would increase the risk of severe negative impacts on all countries, and particularly on those developing countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Technological options for reducing emissions at reasonable costs over the long term already exist and will be most effective if applied as part of a portfolio of options. For some options more work needs to be done to turn them into competitive market options. Delays in action would necessitate greater emission reductions at a later date to meet the same temperature target and would increase the costs and the risks of irreversible damage.