

Abstract of Presentation

The presentation explains that the European Community has developed a policy of sustainable development, how its initiatives fit into the international framework, and how they are being implemented.

The EU has incorporated the concept of sustainable development in the Amsterdam Treaty (1997). Article 2 defines sustainable development as a fundamental objective for the Community. Article 6 requires the integration of environmental aspects into the definition and implementation of Community policies. These articles also reflect developments in UNFCCC, ICAO and other UN bodies. The practical implementation of the Treaty was initiated at the European Council in Cardiff in 1998 and developed in the Helsinki Council in 1999. The results will be examined at the Gothenburg Council in June.

The practical outcome has been the European Climate Change Programme – a wide-ranging analysis of how sectors could contribute to the Community's Kyoto target of -8% of 1990 emissions by 2008-2012. Aviation is a small but growing contributor: it needs to reduce emissions using technological developments, operational improvements, market-based measures, and by encouraging modal shift toward less polluting modes.

Europe will continue to commit a high level of resource to meet its international obligations in ICAO and elsewhere through the building of international consensus where possible.

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Eckard Seebohm represents the European Commission at CAEP, as an Observer.

Prior to joining the Commission's Directorate - General for Energy and Transport in 1988, his previous professional experience included:

- 1977-1980 Economic Research Assistant, University of Göttingen

- 1980-1983 Economic Advisor in Chancellor's Office, Bonn

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Mr. Seebohm holds a PhD in Economics.