

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to associate myself with the statement of Germany on behalf of the European Union. In my intervention, I would like to elaborate on energy efficiency and energy auditing.

During the CSD 14 Finland organized an Energy Audit side event. Finland also emphasized that better energy efficiency and energy saving, cleaner fossil fuel technologies and a greater share of renewable energy sources should be high in our strategies.

In September last year, Finland hosted EnergyAudit'06 Conference in the city of Lahti. The Conference offered an unique opportunity for exchanging ideas and experiences gained in energy audit programs, and for future developments worldwide. A dedicated global energy audit program, in partnership with international financial institutions (IFIs), international environment and energy organizations and the private sector, was one of the items discussed.

It is my pleasure to tell that since EnergyAudit Conference, pilot projects have been established - in Vietnam, Russia and in Central America - in order to see how an international energy audit programme could be realized. I am also pleased to inform you all that next steps will be taken already in early April in Paris when International Energy Agency together with UNEP and International Finance Corporation (IFC) will host a workshop called 'Scaling up energy efficiency: bridging the action gap'. As a part of the workshop, the follow-up to the EnergyAudit 06 Conference will be discussed in a session called "The Road from Lahti: Call for an International Program on Energy Efficiency Audits".

Mr. Chairman, I know that energy efficiency including energy auditing is only part of the huge package of energy for sustainable development. At the same time, I am convinced that we should encourage expanding both energy savings assessments and energy audits, especially in cases where cost-effective investments are possible.

Mr. Chairman,

Finland will work very hard together with its partners between now and CSD-15 on energy auditing and as part of our efforts we are planning for a side event on this theme during the CSD-15. Thank you!