



# LITHUANIA

**ADDRESS**

**OF THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE  
THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

**MR. ARŪNAS KUNDROTAS**

**AT THE COMMISSION  
OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*New York, 11 May 2006*

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On this occasion I would like to express my congratulations for you as a Chairman of the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission of the Sustainable Development.

Lithuania fully associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished Head of the delegation of Austria on behalf of the European Union.

We believe that success of the implementation of the global sustainable development goals in many cases lays in coherent and long – term national policies with defined goals supported with the establishment of legal and regulatory framework for the implementation as well as in the partnership with all the key players. Periodical review of such policies gives a good background for keeping them operational.

Our “Way Forward” is described in the Lithuanian Sustainable Development Strategy where the goals related to the thematic clusters of CSD 14 are set up as well, for example: to ensure the reduction of pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere per GDP unit by 50 % by 2020, to achieve the target of energy production from local renewable and waste energy resources being not less than 15% of primary energy balance by 2020, etc. Seeking rapid economic growth and development, we should move forward in sustainable way considering environmental and social aspects. Therefore one of the key issues in the National Sustainable Development Strategy is to achieve the decoupling of economic growth from environmental pollution.

The review of the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, completed at the end of 2005, indicates progress and positive changes, moving forward to the defined goals and especially achieving the decoupling of economic growth from environmental pollution. The increase in the total greenhouse gas emissions from 16.2 to 17.5 million tones (8 %) in 2003-2004 is more than twice less than the economic growth, which was 16.2 % during the same period. It is important that the amount of the main air pollutants emitted into the atmosphere per GDP unit has decreased more than twice. The mentioned figures indicate that the improvement of eco-efficiency has been achieved without constraining economic growth.

Having in mind the recent positive changes, we still see there is a room for improvement. As it is mentioned in the Secretary's General Report, Lithuania has successfully upgraded building codes to enhance energy efficiency in construction and housing sectors, however the total energy efficiency still remains a key issue as Lithuania consumes almost twice more energy per GDP unit comparing with industrialised countries. Therefore new policy measures, such as the Programme for Apartment Building Modernisation recently approved by the Government, are primarily targeted at the increase of energy efficiency.

We want to see better progress in increasing the use of renewable energy sources. In addition, a special challenge for Lithuania in the nearest future arises following the decommissioning of our nuclear power plant before the year 2010, which currently produces about 70 % of the total electricity generated in Lithuania. Therefore the measures targeted at the renewable energy sector as well as at developing co-generation and increasing wind energy and biofuel production would be the main driving forces for the progress in the sustainable energy development area. The National Programme for the Increase of Energy Consumption Efficiency approved by the Government just one week ago is the

example of our efforts to increase the use of renewable energy sources and to ensure the efficiency of energy consumption in Lithuania.

Mr. Chairman,

I believe the barriers and constraints as well as the lessons learnt discussed during 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission of the Sustainable Development will contribute to the development of the action oriented initiatives to address sustainable energy, industrial development, air pollution and climate change issues and to prepare for the policy session. Inaction becomes too expensive.

Thank you for your attention.