

International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy

Ministerial Meeting

Washington D.C., November 20, 2003

Statement of the Minister for the Environment and Territory H.E. Altero Matteoli

The International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy represents, in a tangible way, the willingness of our Countries to implement concrete actions for the development of technologies needed to meet both the energy demand and energy safety of the world, and the commitment taken under the Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular the stabilization of CO₂ concentrations, within a safe range.

This meeting is held in the middle of the busy program of the Italian Presidency of the European Union, in particular after the July meeting of the Environment and Energy Ministers of the European Union, and before the important meeting of the 9th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change in Milan.

The Montecatini meeting, where Environment and Energy Ministers of 30 European countries took part, favoured an open and constructive debate, and provided important indications to integrate the environmental and energy strategies of Europe.

The need to overcome sector and unilateral visions emerged strongly, and, at the same time, the need to consider the availability of energy supply and the reduction of emissions as a unique objective, to be reached through the integration of the sectoral policies and the development of a international cooperative network.

In order to ensure the stabilization of CO₂ concentrations within a safe range by the end of the century, IPCC scenarios foresee that it will necessary to start, in the timeframe 2020-2050, a global emission reduction by 50%-60%, compared to 1990 levels.

In other words, from 2020 onwards, the supply of energy will also need to be provided by a wider use of renewable energies, hydrogen technologies and fuel cells, highly efficient “clean” technologies for the use of fossil fuels, and technologies for carbon sequestration.

This is the so called “de-carbonization” of the economy scenario.

In this perspective, a much broader strategy and much more effective measures, than those with the Kyoto Protocol, are needed:

- A extraordinary effort in terms of research and innovation, a real technological “shock” to make the new clean and safe sources of energy available and cost effective, and at the same time, to promote the supply diversification related to the fossil fuels;
- A commitment by all countries, both developed and developing, to decrease the emissions and ensure a stabilization of CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere.

The sustainability of this commitment will depend on the will to strengthen the technological cooperation at international level and on the will to share, within global economic regulations, common minimum standards Environmental and Energy efficiency, to spread the use of “clean” technologies and limit the fossil fuels role in the global market of energy.

The global challenge of climate change is being faced through innovative instruments, both in the industrialized countries and emerging economies , such as for example, the “Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum” signed for Italy by the Ministry for Productive Activities last July, the partnership initiatives launched in Johannesburg, the important bilateral programmes for scientific and technological cooperation, as well as the voluntary initiatives developed by multinational companies.

Also the Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy is a concrete answer in this direction, and Italy considers that this is the way forward for assuming at global level the leadership in facing the important challenges of climate change .The International Partnership for Hydrogen Economy should focus on two main objectives:

- The launch of **concrete international cooperation pilot projects**, involving the private sector, for the development of technologies that are, at the same time, efficient and economically viable.

Italy is ready to play its part, by financing specific pilot projects.

On this subject I would like to express our willingness to include in the IPHE Partnership the Italian projects under development in the framework of the Italian – Us Programme on Research and Technology for Climate Change.

In particular those related to:

- Fuel Cells and Micro Turbines;
- Hydrogen Production, Infrastructure, Distribution and Sequestration;
- CO2 Sequestration ;
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

So far these projects, implying an overall investment of about 50 million Euro, have been co-financed by the Ministry for the Environment and Territory with 18 million Euro

- the commitment for the development of a low emission technologies has to be combined with **programmes for their dissemination** in the world energy market, in particular in the emerging economies of Asia and South America that are playing an important role both in terms of consumption and emission.

The development of new energy technologies and innovative management systems must consider as a priority objective the availability of these technologies by emerging countries.

The possibility that COP 9 of Milan could give a positive message to the international community, and could identify the instruments by which the

climate change strategy becomes the opportunity for the development and the dissemination of new technologies, depends from successful initiatives as the one launched today.