

The speech of Prof. Dimitrios MAVRAKIS from NKUA – KEPA (Greece) at the Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Environmental Protection of BSEC was based on the text below, which is the prologue of the Energy View of BSEC countries Special Edition on Climate Change policies edition.

On the 20th anniversary after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 a new conference is organized in the same city of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

The Conference under the acronym Rio+20, on 20-22 June 2012 will focus on green economy in the context of sustainable development, poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

As the organizers have announced, the preparations for the conference have highlighted seven areas which need priority attention and include the issues of decent jobs, energy, sustainable cities, food security and sustainable agriculture, water, oceans and disaster readiness.

Thousands of participants from governments, the private sector and other stakeholders are expected to meet in an effort to conclude and support decisions driving to global sustainable development.

In a rapidly changing world, the governments and the people of our planet are challenged to propose solutions for global problems and what is more important to agree to act globally to implement them.

The dramatic explosion of human population to seven billions and the concentration of more of them in the urban areas of Asia, especially in the so called mega cities define the new global scenic.

Undoubtedly, the demand for economic development of this young and increasingly aggressive population is closely related with the capacity of their societies to provide them the adequate services of energy, at least at minimum level while preserving the environment where they live.

Climate Change due to anthropogenic activities creates the need for the appropriate policies for Mitigation and Adaptation that inevitable should be implemented in a global dimension.

Although the issue of the fair distribution for the cost of the measures that have to be implemented has not been answered satisfactory, so far, it is obvious that further delays will increase the social and economic cost of confronting the emerging catastrophic changes.

In a period of global economic recession the requested solution should combine both the dimension of economic development and measures for climate change and this is the context of the proposed green economy. But still the question of equitable development remains unanswered underlining the fears for social tensions that they may emerge if the poorest parts of the developing societies will remain isolated in their ghettos.

Equitable sustainable energy development constitutes the hard core of the commitments that should be undertaken if a real sustainable economic development is desired.

The 20th anniversary after the establishment of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) coincides with the Rio+20 activities and provides a unique opportunity for the countries of the region to increase the level of their cooperation and act regionally to meet the challenge of sustainable development.

It is thus necessary not only to develop their national policies but also to increase the awareness that the nature of most of their problems necessitates regional cooperation.

Adaptation to Climate Change necessitates regionally harmonized measures for rivers, seas and forests.

Although for more than twenty years the various international treaties and commitments have created a certain framework for their implementation there are still needs and gaps for implementing them among the countries of BSEC.

The need for knowledge development and transfer remains obvious. Apart from small islands of knowledge the issues related to the green economy are not familiar to academic societies, governmental bodies, market stakeholders and ultimately to the final consumers.



It thus become obvious the need for a Strategic Green Alliance that will bring together the decision makers of the various governmental bodies and institutions, the academic societies and the market forces, in both national and regional level with the task to find realistic ways to promote green economy in their countries.

The “PROMITHEASnet” is an open to participation network of academic institutions from all BSEC countries and has its origin in the Project Development Fund (PDF) of BSEC. It promotes scientific cooperation on energy and climate change policy issues in a holistic way. Its activities include seminars, conferences, workshops, scholarships, a bi-lingual scientific journal, awards, a world wide disseminated news letter and the periodical edition “Energy View of BSEC countries”.

In the context of its activities it has succeeded to undertake an EU - FP7 project under the title “*Knowledge transfer and research needs for preparing mitigation/ adaptation policy portfolios*” for fourteen (14) countries from the broad area of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea.

The main objectives of this three (3) years duration FP7 project are: i) the development and assessment of mitigation /adaptation policy portfolios for twelve (12) beneficiary countries of the region, on the basis of the United Nations standards, ii) the identification and prioritization of research needs and gaps in each beneficiary country to develop these portfolios, ii) the development of a knowledge transfer procedure with the aim to train local academic and decision makers in undertaking the task to develop the necessary portfolios for their countries and iii) to disseminate the outcomes of the project among the beneficiary countries and not only at the highest possible level, to that aim a number of editions will be circulated (this present special edition is one of them), all reports are communicated, in advance, to the relevant governmental bodies and chambers of commerce for comments through the Permanent Secretariat (PERMIS) and Business Council (BC) of BSEC. Final reports are communicated to the headquarters of United Nations in New York. Finally a number of twelve national workshops, one final conference and participation to BSEC ministerial meetings are foreseen in an effort to increase the awareness of both the governments and the local societies on these issues.

This special edition contains the existing climate change policies of the BSEC countries as they have been prepared by the relevant academic institutions of PROMITHEAS – 4 project in each beneficiary country and reflects the existing state of art plus the difficulties they have occurred in accessing the necessary data and sources.

All ministries have been requested to comment their national reports while the relevant ministers have been kindly invited to prologue their national reports.

In the coming months it is planned the development and assessment of the M/A policy portfolios, based on the databases that are to be finalized in the coming weeks with the use of LEAP model and a special developed method (AMS) for assessing climate change policies. In a later stage and with the perspective of national workshops, an effort will be made so as the final reports for each beneficiary country to be translated into their languages, in order to increase the level of knowledge transfer. Further to that and based on the accumulated knowledge, in every country, PROMITHEAS – 4 will be in the position to organize “tailor made” seminars especially in the post Rio+20 and post Kyoto periods.

The present edition is set under the aegis of the Serbian Chairmanship of BSEC under the occasion of its 20th anniversary and underlines the importance and sensitivity that the Serbian Government shows for confronting the Climate Change challenges at a regional level and also its acknowledgement of the role that EU can play in the region in the context of its declared policies.

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The Editor

Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakis

