

Dear Ambassador Orav,

Dear Mayor Trajanovski,

Dear Ms. Bento Pais,

Dear participants of the Conference on the Adaptation to Climate Change,

Allow me to welcome you and express my pleasure for being hosts to this important Conference on Adaptation to Climate Change.

There are apparent evidences that climate change happens today. We have witnessed huge unforeseen changes occurring in the region during the last months. According to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the main risks for the European region include increased losses in people, and economic losses due to floods and rivers overflowing, as well as increased negative impacts on human health and work ability owing it to extreme heat waves. Negative impacts are also expected on yields, quality of air and wild life. Phenomena of shortage in water accessibility are also highly probable and will also impact irrigation, energy and industry.

Enormous floods and extreme weather events exactly confirm the vulnerability of our region and reaffirm the need for joint and synergetic action by all of us in the achievement of the globally set target of the OUN towards temperature rise below 2°C by the end of the century.

All countries should move towards so called low emission or green economies. Countries are requested to deliver their so called contributions to the achievement of this globally set target by the end of 2015 at the World Summit in Paris.

Our country's current activities are also directed towards the achievement of this global target. We work on the analysis of different scenarios and the results will be translated into policy document to be adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia before the Summit. Analyses for three scenario groups have been made with different levels of ambition that will be further upgraded with actions and measures that are necessary to acquire the most favourable scenario of growth and development. Proposed measures and actions (that will be subject to additional analysis) will be adjusted to the goals of the future Energy Strategy and in this way we will respond to the recommendation contained in the latest Report of the EU on the progress of our country in the area of climate concerning our policies harmonization with the EU package on energy and climate 2030. Apart from this activity, as a Party to the OUN Convention on Climate Change, we work to fulfil the obligations arising from it. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the Third National Communication on Climate Change in January 2014 and it is the first in the wider region. Elaboration of the Biannual revised report on climate change is in final stage.

Nevertheless, besides the aspect of reduction, we need to underline that our countries belong to the group of the most sensitive regions to climate change impacts, and thus sectors that are most sensitive to change are also subject of our analyses. Our national communication have identified the most vulnerable sectors, these being water resources, biological diversity, agriculture, forestry, tourism, cultural heritage and human health, and measures have been proposed for their vulnerability mitigation. However, what the key is in the adaptation to climate change is the integration of the issue of climate change in the relevant sectoral strategic, planning and programme documents both on national and regional levels..

Planning of development in all mentioned sectors should also take into account the aspect of future potential changes in climate. Cross-sectoral impacts (for example, water-agriculture-energy) should be

also reviewed with climate change being taken in the account. The aspect of the costs of actions involving measures aimed at ensuring stronger resistance to climate change should be criterion in the assessment of the feasibility of proposed measures. In order to have all this functioning in a sustainable manner, we need multi-sectoral approach, and science based taking of wise political decisions. The application of the principle of wide participation of all stakeholders in decision making is necessary for proper decision taking and securing sustainability of the development.

Adoption of EU legislation in the area of climate change is particular challenge for the country, which requires significant strengthening of the capacity at all levels, and involvement of all stakeholders. To that end, we work on gradual national capacity building towards introduction of the European Emission Trading Scheme and establishment of sustainable system for greenhouse gas emission data management.

The legislation of the European Union in the area of climate is ambitious and its enforcement requires establishment of new and strengthening of existing capacity. In this context, prioritization of the needs is crucial and we intend to accomplish this with the long-term Strategy for Climate Action, which we prepare with the support of the EU.

We, in the Ministry count on continued support from the European Union to the achievement of the common priorities in the area.

Once again, let me finish by reaffirming our commitment to further combat with climate change in order to build safer future for the coming generations.

I wish you a successful Conference.

Thank you.