



Ladies and Gentlemen!

I.

As State Secretary and Deputy to Minister Clement, I like to welcome you personally in our ministry for the annual meeting of the Policy and Technical Group of the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum.

We take pride to host this meeting, and I hope that you will be satisfied with the outcome of this important meeting.

I consider CSLF to be one of the most promising initiatives for the development of energy technology. That is why Germany signed the CSLF Charta in 2003. And that is why I would very much welcome if CSLF could advance in a good manner.

Carbon Capture and Storage is one of the most a promising options to limit the emissions caused by the use of fossil fuels. It therefore has to be developed with a strong political endorsement.

We know about the importance of fossil fuels for the security and economics of energy supply in the decades to come. Worldwide energy demand will increase by about 60 % until 2030. And it will have to be covered by fossil fuels in the first place – and that means more coal and gas in electricity production.

Therefore we agreed in Gleneagles that we have to act now to slow down the increase of greenhouse gas emissions linked to energy consumption or even to reverse the trend. Clean technology is the key element of our strategy besides more energy efficiency in all sectors and the increased use of renewables.

II.

In Germany we have succeeded in concentrating the technological capacities of industry and science in the area of fossil fuel of power plants with the support of the public sector in a joint R&D effort. We call this concept COORETEC (for CO₂-Reduction Technologies).

The result is a technically sound roadmap how to achieve significant gains in efficiencies until 2020 and at the same time develop CCS technologies for practically zero emission power plants.

In the meantime, several important and broad projects have started with funding from this ministry, for example in the field of oxyfuel, IGCC and gas and steam turbines.

III.

And it seems that this strategy is seen as a good example also for European R+D policy and practice.

The draft 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development of the EU recognizes the importance of clean coal technology for the energy sector. The increase of efficiency of power plants as well as CCS are given high priority.

That is a good basis for future co-operation, not only in view of an efficient cost-sharing but also to proceed rapidly.

A great number of countries outside Europe have developed similar strategies, so that CSLF can build on a sound basis of common understanding and endeavours.

IV.

Industry, on the other hand, is already very much engaged in this field. In Germany, as well as in the European Union, industry has already taken the lead in many areas, having recognized that clean coal technology is the only way to reconcile the CO₂-problem with the further use of fossil fuels, especially coal.

As one example, I should like to mention Vattenfall. They have committed to constructing an Oxyfuel Pilot Plant in Eastern Germany, which hopefully will bring a lot of sound experience with this technology.

Industry is also much engaged in our Advisory Council for COORETEC, cooperating with science and state governments in order to harmonise the different national programmes and projects, and to give the best input into international cooperation.

V.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

we all know that new technologies in general and especially carbon capture and storage to a great extent require public acceptance. So there is a need for a well timed information policy.

I, very much appreciate that this is a major topic also in CSLF work. In this sense I am looking forward to the press conference this noon. To end up, I wish you all fruitful discussions. The famous “air of Berlin” may help you to achieve good results.

Good luck and thank you for the attention.