

Federal Minister Clement: **opening words of the patron** on the occasion of the third work group meeting of the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum on 27/28 September 2005 in the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour in Berlin



Dear participants in the CSLF meeting,

It is a pleasure to me to welcome you to the third meeting of the policy group and the technical group in the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour in Berlin. With its competence for energy research, particularly concerning the use of fossil energies, the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour is the best German address for new, efficient technologies related to coal-based power generation. The discussion on CO₂ capture and storage among a large number of experts was first initiated by our Ministry in 2002 with its new research and development concept COORETEC. With the publication of the COORETEC concept in the course of 2003, the issue was communicated to the public and finally became a priority of federal policy when it became part of the Energy Research Programme in 2005. I am glad that during my term of office the close national cooperation in the context of COORETEC as well as international cooperation within the European Union and last but not least with the CSLF were established.

As the former Prime Minister of the German State of North Rhine Westphalia with its substantial hard and brown coal deposits I have always been convinced of the necessity for the further use of coal, but also of the opportunities the use of coal as a safe and efficient energy source offers. Similarly, I am convinced of its future potential thanks to the increasingly environmentally friendly use that will be achieved through the ever mounting energy efficiency and potentially through CO₂ capture and storage in the future – a development the CSLF can provide a significant contribution to. I also welcome that for the first time the cooperation projects are being presented here and that larger circles of industrial, scientific and NGO representatives are participating. The Berlin meeting can thus become a new milestone in the CSLF cooperation.

I am particularly pleased, that your meeting is taking place in our ministry. I hope that you will feel comfortable in this historically interesting building. I wish you successful sessions, but also the time to enjoy a bit our capital, the city of Berlin, with its various cultural offers.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wolfgang Clement', written in a cursive style.

Wolfgang Clement