

PRESENTATION BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY

Mr.Chairman, first of all on behalf of my delegation I would like to express our thanks to the host country for this meeting and for the excellent way in which it has been organized.

The Dutch Government has taken this very positive initiative to convene this Conference which gives us the opportunity to discuss one of the main problems of air pollution. I would also like to express my gratitude to the ECE that has provided its cooperation in organizing this Conference.

We realize that this Conference is an excellent opportunity to discuss possible ways and means to strengthen our efforts to combat acid rain.

During the last couple of years environmental problems have been surging and consciousness of the general public increased very fast in Turkey. However, our environmental problems are rather different from those in Central and Western Europe, and mainly result from regionally unbalanced industrialization and rapid urbanization.

Air pollution in Turkey is not a wide-spread phenomenon but poses mainly local problems in certain cities and zones.

"Basic Targets and Strategy of the Fifth Five Year Development Plan (1985-1989)" aims at handling environmental problems in a comprehensive and coordinated way to prevent deterioration and to secure the development of natural and man-made environment. According to this Plan, measures will be adopted to remove or reduce to a minimum the factors that particularly cause air and water pollution. For the sake of protecting the human health and living beings it also says that programmes and projects will rapidly be drawn up and put into execution on priority in locations where pollution and destruction are dense.

On the other hand, during the Fifth Plan Period part of the energy demand will be met by natural gas and geothermal resources and also supply of additional energy provision will be targeted through the natural gas extraction projects from the neighbouring countries.

In addition to the above provisions, the Government Programme considers the air pollution problem as a combined approach of short and long term measures. According to this program necessary and urgent measures will be taken in Ankara and the other cities which have air pollution problems. For this purpose, provisions will be made to supply sufficient amounts of fuel

of high quality and studies on projects to bring comprehensive solutions to the problem will be started, also options for central heating in the cities with dense air pollution problems and measures to decrease the population density of the urban settlements will be considered.

In our country the share of fossil fuels, which is one of the main sources of air pollution, is 66% in the total primary energy production, and 74% in the total energy consumption. Lignite which comprise the greatest reserve in relation to other fuel sources make up for 17% of our total consumption. The ash rate of our lignites, as a whole is 10-50% and their total sulphur 1-5%.

Approximately 43.5% of the final energy consumption is used in the housing sector, 31% in industry and 5.6% in the transportation sector. But it should be noted that this consumption is not totally utilized energy; the rate of utilized energy which is approximately 45% in Western Europe is estimated to be lower in our country.

In Turkey 46.6% of total energy produced is thermal energy and 53% comes from lignite and charcoal.

Forests in Turkey are generally located far from the industrial sites and the settlements areas. Because of the climatic conditions damages caused by the forest fires, insects and fungi are much more important than the air pollution in the short range. But it is obvious that as the number of industries and power plants increases with time, the level of damage will increase widely unless otherwise necessary measures are taken.

There have been several studies about the impact of air pollution on forests caused by Murgul Copper works, Emet Borax Mine Works and Karadeniz Copper Works in Artvin discharges approximately 30.000 tons of SO_2 per year, SO_2 emissions from both factories are converted to H_2SO_4 by the increase of relative humidity in the atmosphere from time to time, and this phenomenon causes the acid precipitation, which damages broad leaved plants and corrodes the furniture and other materials, and results in huge economic losses. It has been determined that these emissions damage especially plants like tobacco, corn and spinach, fruits like peach, apple and tomato, and decrease their fertility and also damage by acidification caused crops to be burned and plowed under. Also it is noted that the villagers who live within 1 km distance from the two factories, have got the compensation up to 100.000.000 TL in certain years.

But to prevent the damage caused by these plants to the environment, a

sulphuric acid plant is almost completed.

The attempts to establish a pollution monitoring network throughout Turkey are being continued in order to prevent pollution. For the time being there are 16 monitoring stations in Ankara today where the pollution is very high and 14 in other cities.

As a part of the pollution combatting strategy, energy conservation measures play an important role for the countries with limited sources of energy for this purpose. To decrease fuel consumption by adequate insulation of buildings an amendment was made in the Building Regulation and heat insulations were made compulsory for all new buildings after January 1983.

Finally, we think that conservation and improvement of environment can only be achieved through close international cooperation and therefore this Conference should be a great contribution to provide the necessary political support in this respect.