



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

Guy Sebban suggested introductory remarks
“Integration for Synergy in Climate Policies”
Poznan Business Day

1. Introduction

- I am very pleased to be here with you today. The International Chamber of Commerce is proud to be once again co-organising, with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, a Business Day event that strongly demonstrates the commitment of business towards meeting the climate change challenge.
- I would like to thank, Under-Secretary Korolec for the warm hospitality of the Polish government and Yvo de Boer for strongly engaging with business. Finally I would also like to express my gratitude to WBCSD and all of our associate partners for working with us to make this event a success.

2. Current Crisis

- Nobody can speak today without saying a word about the financial crisis and its consequences.
- This meeting comes at an important juncture for the global economy. Recent events have highlighted the need and importance of intergovernmental cooperation, though obviously there is a key role to be played by companies and their representatives, in particular organisations like ICC and WBCSD.
- The world economy is interdependent and to tackle major challenges which transcend national boundaries international cooperation is vital.
- This is even more crucial in light of turbulent events this year which has seen tremendous volatility in energy prices, steep declines in stock indexes and a global credit crunch.
- ICC has always emphasized that a market economy system works well within a framework of rules.
- However, despite the current global financial crisis, business is committed to finding solutions to climate change.
- Business is actively seeking solutions and urges negotiators to develop policies and financial mechanisms to de-link environmental impacts from economic growth.



3. Climate change

- Climate change is a global issue that requires a global solution. It is one of the pressing challenges of our times and must be addressed in the context of meeting growing energy needs and achieving sustainable development and economic growth.
- The science of climate change is becoming clearer. The need to set the right priorities is evident and political momentum to address this issue is growing.
- Businesses all over the world are part of the solution and have made major changes in how they operate and introduced new processes, products and services to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- However, given the wide range of impacts and interconnectivity of the solutions required, collaborative efforts will be essential to find a way forward.
- It is companies that are the main source of research and development and innovation.
- Governments should ensure a broad vision as they develop climate change policies and frameworks that touch on many aspects of the global economy. We must always remember that economic growth and open trade provide the conditions in which protection of the environment can best be achieved

4. Trade, Investment and Climate Change

- Fostering alignment and mutual compatibility of climate change policies and multilateral trade rules will enable governments to reap more fully the beneficial effects of trade liberalisation for both economic development and environmental protection.
- Governments must avoid the temptation to isolate themselves through protectionist measures against trade and investment.
- Last December, trade ministers from around the world met at the UNFCCC 13th Conference of the Parties in Bali to signal a clear link between climate change and trade policy and discuss “win-win” solutions for trade and climate regimes.
- For example, some WTO members have proposed the reduction or elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers on environmental goods and services in the context of the Doha Round negotiations. Approaches like these are examples of how the multilateral trading system can work to support broader deployment of technology options that can contribute to combat climate change.
- Trade and investment liberalization is indispensable to the development and deployment of climate friendly technologies, particularly to developing countries.
- So cooperation is essential to encourage public-private partnerships so vital to unleash the level investments needed.



5. Technology Development and Diffusion

- With an expected rise in global population from 6.5 to 8 billion, a 50% increase in energy demand and a doubling of economic output in the next 25 years, it is critically important to marshal the necessary technological resources to address sustainability challenges and increase the pace of technological innovation, cooperation and dissemination.
- Business has been and will continue to be, responsible for the vast majority of investments and the development and diffusion of the new and improved technologies that will be essential to meeting the challenge of global climate change.
- Global development and deployment of advanced technologies to address climate change will require appropriate institutional frameworks, such as intellectual property rights protection, market-based licensing of those rights, innovative funding mechanisms and, of course, the removal of trade and investment barriers.
- Governments should also keep all technology options open, the establishment of lists of favoured or prescribed technologies would only hinder effective long-term use of the most appropriate technologies for the countries where they are to be used.

6. Conclusion

- ICC, with our thousands of member companies from all sectors and in all parts of the world is ready, in conjunction with partners such as WBCSD, to lead business efforts towards more responsible and sustainable practices to meet the global challenges of our time.
- There is an urgency to focus our efforts here in Poznan and throughout next year - on the road to Copenhagen -
- We (business) need you (negotiators) to deliver on a global post-2012 UNFCCC framework agreement that achieves consensus and addresses climate change effectively and efficiently allowing business to unleash the necessary resources to tackle the climate challenge.
- I am sure that the Poznan Business Day will be a fruitful dialogue and will deliver clear business insights and ideas to develop a well-designed climate policy framework.
- Thank you very much