

**Key Note, Mr. Johannes Kyrle,  
Secretary General, Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs**

**7th Meeting of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE-7)**

**„Energy Efficiency for Developing Countries:  
Strong Policies and New Technologies“**

**Vienna, 21 November 2007**

Ministers,  
Director General of UNIDO,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Energy is as high on the political agenda as never before. Secure, reliable and affordable energy services are fundamental to economic prosperity, social stability and political security. They are a prerequisite of development.

The threat of disruptive climate change – and last week’s presentation of the fourth part of the IPCC-Report in Valencia, Spain, has again forcefully reminded us of the dangers of climate change -, the erosion of energy security and the growing energy needs of developing countries pose major challenges to decision-makers at all levels.

The world is not on course for a sustainable energy future. Oil prices are higher than ever; they raise concerns about the long-term balance of supply and demand. Despite our common commitment to bringing back greenhouse gas levels below 1990-levels, according to data of the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions have increased by more than 20 % over the last decade. According to the IEA 2005 World Energy Outlook we can expect emissions and oil demand to continue to grow rapidly over the next 25 years even when we take into account the technological progress to be expected under existing policies. Beyond 2030 the trends will even worsen. Surging transport demand will continue to put pressure on oil supply. The carbon intensity of the world’s economy will increase due to greater reliance on coal for power generation – especially in rapidly expanding countries with domestic coal resources. The 2007 IEA up-date only reinforces the basic message.

To counteract these trends action is needed at various levels. The European Union, with its New Energy Policy for Europe, adopted by the European Council earlier this year, will move simultaneously

- to enhance the quality of the internal energy market;
- to increase the percentage of renewables in the overall energy mix available to EU countries;
- to accelerate research and development (R&D);
- to further progress on energy efficiency.

The Union will complement its internal action by appropriate external actions, such as a gradual extension of the dynamics of the internal market to other regions (situated at the border of the Mediterranean or in South Eastern Europe) or a comprehensive energy partnership with Africa, to be consecrated at the forthcoming EU-Africa-Summit in Lisbon, Portugal in early December 2007. In this context, I am happy to report that the Austrian Foreign Minister has offered, in close dialogue with Burkina Faso as the current chair of ECOWAS and with UNIDO, to establish a Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for the West African Region.

Enhancing energy efficiency – through innovation, the adoption of new cost-effective technologies and a better use of existing energy-efficient technologies - is one certain avenue towards addressing the complex challenges of climate change, access to energy for development and peaceful and reliable energy interdependence. The current 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of GFSE is therefore particularly timely. Measures to improve energy efficiency are good investments – in countries where old energy systems have to be brought up to par to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards and in countries that are in process of setting up modern energy systems where state-of-the-art approaches can be introduced from the outset.

Accelerating progress in energy efficiency is indispensable. The recent slowdown in energy savings in OECD countries must be reversed. This is possible since there is still significant scope for adopting more efficient technologies in buildings, industry and transport. In non-OECD countries, the potential for improvement is even greater. Let us remember that energy efficiency is often the cheapest, fastest and most environmentally friendly way to meet the world's energy needs. Many energy

efficiency measures are already economic and will pay for themselves over their lifetime through reduced energy costs. A wide range of policy instruments are available, including public information campaigns, non-binding guidelines, labels and targets, public-sector leadership in procurement, binding regulations, standards, and fiscal and other financial incentives.

Before concluding, I should like to express my gratitude to the Austrian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water for the continued excellent cooperation in the context of the GFSE. I should also like to pay tribute to UNIDO's Director General Kandeh Yumkella and thank him for co-sponsoring this 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of GFSE. We look forward to a close cooperation with UNIDO also as UNIDO embarks to steer UN-Energy, the interagency group that brings together all the various UN agencies that have energy mandates.

Vienna is a strong hub for international organizations with energy mandates – in addition to UNIDO the Austrian capital is host to the IAEA, OPEC, the OSCE, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), also a co-sponsor of this meeting, and the Energy Secretariat for South Eastern Europe. Vienna is also headquarter for important energy-related companies, utilities and technology developers. My sincere thanks go to the City of Vienna for hosting an evening reception for GFSE-participants. I should also thank UNDP for the excellent cooperation throughout the years and for this year's willingness to provide for the working luncheons.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may this meeting be successful as a place of encounter and exchange of experience among all relevant stake-holders. May the next few days be constructive from a professional and enjoyable from a personal point of view !

Thank you for your attention.