

Peter Juel Jensen, MF (V) d. 25. oktober

COP 15 and the role of Danish government

My head line for my speech is, COP 15 and the role of the Danish Government, but yesterday we heard our Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen. His message was clear, we have to reduce the man made emissions and we have to limit global warming to a max of two degrees.

I am a member of Mr. Løkke Rasmussen's party, so of course we have discussed this matter within our party and we all agree, because we have to be serious about the message from the science, As responsible politicians we cannot turn our backs to the alarm calls from the science, we have to act now, and we have to act with ambition. The first sign of this was when Denmark invited the whole world to Copenhagen this December.

At this point, it would be fair to state, that we in Denmark from the left to the right in the parliament all support this invitation. We are a small nation, but we want to do our bit to ensure that the world chooses a more climate friendly path.

Denmark is known for its little Mermaid, but it could just as well be a windmill. We have shown that it is possible to get a large share of the energy from renewable energy. 17% of Danish energy comes from renewable sources. There is no magic trick to this, but political will and legislation behind this achievement. And we can and must all go much further.

In Copenhagen this December we need an ambitious and binding deal, so when we say goodbye to each other here today, we must all go home and push for an ambitious deal.

- A deal, where the rich countries take the lead and commit to deep reductions.
- A deal that enables emerging economies to take a cleaner path to economic growth.

- A deal that assists the poor countries to adapt to climate change, - because they are the ounces, that are hit the hardest and hit first.

Copenhagen must be a new beginning to a low carbon economy, I will make Nicklolas Stern's words mine, COP 15 in Copenhagen is the most important meeting in decades.

- Denmark's role as hosts is not easy. We have mobilised all people at all levels to put this issue at the front of everybody's mind, in order to maximise the possibilities for an ambitious deal.

But, there is always a BUT, we face some challenges:

We have not crossed the finish line yet: There are still 3 major areas in the talks that must be solved:

1) Industrialised countries reduction commitments:

- The industrialised countries need to show leadership to get the developing countries onboard. Right now: Reduction commitments on the table are between: 9- 16 %. Still quite far from the estimates of IPCC who says 25 -40 % is needed.

Another major area is the Finance:

- Finance is the key to a deal. No money, no deal! I think it is so simple, as that.
- We need different sources of finance to found emission reductions and adaptation.
- There are no numbers on the table yet and it's also debated how the money flow should be administered
- It is important that the industrialised countries show leadership here. Hopefully, the EU agrees up on a concrete proposal at the summit the 29th of October.

3) The third major area is the action from the developing countries:

- The world will not be able deliver on the 2 degree target if the most economically developed developing countries do not deliver actions on their part.

Closing

- The Danish government, with the full support from the Danish Parliament is doing what ever it can to further talks through multilateral and bilateral meetings, but makes no mistake, in the end it's the political leaders that will decide the level of ambition.
- Therefore, political leadership is paramount to success in Copenhagen. Leaders must come with clear mandates – and courage to close the deal! We can help give them that courage!
- Remember: Ambitious action is an investment – not a cost! It is an investment – in a safer future; in new infrastructure; in millions of new jobs.
- Also, let's not forget: the cost of inaction, is much greater than if we react today. Inaction will cost us around 5 % of world BNP, much, more than if we act wisely today.
- In the circles where we work: we should spread the word: That an ambitious binding deal is necessary!

A lot of peoples are counting on us and the Governments we represent, I hope, that we will not let them down!

Speech to the Globe Copenhagen Legislators Forum, October 25, 2009

By Mette Gjerskov, spokesperson on climate and environment, Social Democrats, on behalf of Social Democrats, The Social Liberal Party, Socialist Peoples Party and Enhedslisten, The Danish Folketing

Ladies and gentlemen, honourable and distinguished guests here at the Danish Folketing. I certainly do hope that you all feel welcomed in our city - Copenhagen.

I am speaking on behalf of my colleagues from the minority parties of the opposition here in the The Environmental Committee in the Danish Folketing: Social Democrats, the Social Liberal Party, Socialist Peoples Party and Enhedslisten.

Our four parties usually are able to agree on most climate issues. We see ourselves as more ambitious than our Government. We certainly would have made much more drastic changes in Denmark towards a more low-carbon and sustainable society, had we been given the chance to govern over the last decade. And we are dedicated to bring an end to the use of fossil fuels in Denmark before 2050.

That being said, we do of course support the Danish Governments' ambition to reach a strong international agreement at COP 15 that will lead us all on the track to secure that the global temperature will not exceed + 2° C (e. to 3,6° F) in this century.

This includes binding commitments and actions where developed countries reduce their emissions with 25-40% by 2020 and developing countries lower emissions in comparison with "Business as usual" with 15-30% .Targets for international ship- and air traffic, commitments on financing mitigation, adoption and forest conservation and the other things that we know are needed.

We have during the years put a lot of effort – and a lot of pressure – on our government to secure that Denmark consequently will work for ambitious targets in the EU. And – allow me to be frank: We do believe that we have played an important role in laying out the Danish position. It has not always been as green and ambitious as we have wanted it to be.

I am proud to be here today. Proud to be able to address you. And proud of being part of a process that will lead the world to a new beginning. Because it is urgent. We need a new beginning. The world needs us to take the important steps to make the world a better place. A world of sustainability. A world where we for the first time in the history of mankind realize that we have made mistakes – and that a united

mankind will work together on solving our shared problems. Climate changes are manmade. Climate changes can also be stopped and even reversed by mankind.

Our goal is simple. And at the same time complex. We have to keep the temperature from rising more than 2 degrees in this century. It is rare that we as politicians are confronted with problems of these proportions, and at the same time presented with solutions that are as clear and simple and agreed upon by most scientists in the world: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is as simple and complex as that.

Today I will talk to you about the Danish perspective. My perspective as a Dane, my perspective as part of the political minority in Denmark. And finally my perspective as a citizen of the beautiful planet earth.

I am often asked how it is possible for Danes to be so efficient in energy. Allow me therefore to tell you a little story of a more personal nature. I grew up in the 70s. I grew up in times of oil crisis world wide. When I was a kid we had car-free Sundays. It wasn't allowed to drive cars on Sundays. That would probably never be accepted nowadays. When I was a teenager my father would be knocking on the bathroom door every morning, shouting that I should not take so long showers. That I should restrict my use of hot water. All the dads said this to all the girls. Due to green taxes. hot water was expensive. And that was one of the places in a family budget, where it was possible to save some money. Sometimes I see us as a nation of fathers of teenage daughters in the 70s and 80s, knocking on bathroom doors, teaching their kids to save energy. To take care of the resources of the world.

Well that was a personal comment, but also one of many explanations as to why Danes are a people of high efficiency in energy. We had an early focus of limited resources and those early steps laid out a path for our country. Renewable energy has been a priority in Denmark. We have had incentives. Both green taxes and subsidies. And now we are world leading in the wind turbine industry, which gives a lot of Danes their daily income – and the rest of the Danes a crucial contribution to our welfare society.

But we will go further. By the year 2050 Denmark can and will be completely independent of fossil fuels. We know that it is possible, and we are determined to reach our goal.

Some of the factors in our shared vision for Denmark will be further enhancement of district heating supply – combined heat and power production based on renewables. A dramatic increase in exploiting the gas from biomass. Further investments in renewable energy from both matured technologies and less matured technologies

such as wind turbines, solar energy, geothermal energy, wave energy. A transportation system based on renewables – electricity in both cars and trains. Further reductions in heating and increased regulation in demands for low energy building. A more appropriate land use with an increasing area of forest and extensifying production in other areas of our farm land, eg low areas that will easily flood and thereby reduce some of the potent greenhouse gasses. All measures must be taken into account in order to transform Denmark into a green and sustainable society that is independent from fossil fuels.

In the report prepared by congressman Ed Markey there is a set of guiding principles. We strongly support these recommendations. We do have a very important role as parliamentarians to secure precise targets. Both on short term and in the long run. We do have an important role to secure strict standards. Both in power generation, in escalation combined heat and power, in standards for cars, in standards for buildings and so on. I would here like to stress the crucial importance of this work where we all can do a remarkable difference in making our societies much more energy efficient.

We need a legally binding agreement in Copenhagen. And we need it to be fair. Everybody have to contribute to a sustainable future. But we in the richest parts of the world must take a leading role.

Financing the global agreement must be new and additional. 1 billion people of this world are starving. 1 billion people go to bed every night hungry – if they have a bed. They are not the ones, who are supposed to contribute to financing an agreement in Copenhagen. We need to find stable sources of income in order to finance the agreement. Global financial measures in addition to contributions from individual countries. We need a global tax on bunker fuel, on aviation, both as a source of income and as a way to reduce emissions. And we need to generate income from a global carbon market.

When it comes to spending money, this has to be done fair and transparent. We believe that this can best be reached by prioritising channelling financial measures mainly through UNFCCC bodies. Bodies that are widely accepted all over the world and laid out within democratic institutions.

We find it very important that an agreement does not contain elements that will undermine the purpose. Therefore it is crucial that unused AAUs are not being transferred into the context of a new agreement.

Land use is another key element for the minority parties. Forest management and stopping deforestation plays a crucial role, but it is important in this context to recall

the protection and inclusion of indigenous peoples as well as biodiversity. Sustainable forest use and an aim to increase carbon stock in forestry will be tools that will help us reach our goals.

An important priority for the minority parties is also transparent control measures – for all parties involved. Both when it comes to reduce emissions and when it comes to financial instruments.

In conclusion. Allow me to underline the fact that Denmark as a whole is ready to welcome the world in December. All Danes are aware of the fact that the world will be visiting. Climate issues are on the agenda all over our small nation. It is being discussed with colleagues over lunch in companies everywhere. It is being discussed within families over the dinner table. It is on every single teachers mind when deciding their education of our kids. Climate is on the agenda in board rooms in companies, in city councils, in every community, in Parliament, yes in every deciding body in our nation.

Fellow legislators. Please take this message home to colleagues in your country. Denmark is ready, we welcome the world and we are humbled by the fact that the world is watching. We will do our utmost to facilitate fruitful and ambitious discussions. And we firmly believe that our beautiful planet needs us all to make the right choice. And do it now.