



Work Sheet Environment Minister Germany

Minister Conference: "Climate change and coastal protection"

Dear Minister of the environment!

You represent Germany at today's coastal protection conference. As minister of the environment it is important for you to do something for the people and nature, but naturally you are very interested in complying with the different voter groups in your own country and in reaching compromises where ever possible.

It is your task, together with the ministers of the environment from Denmark and the Netherlands to agree on a Wadden Sea wide coastal protection strategy. In order to help develop your opinion, expert arguments will be given from the here present interest groups from nature conservation, coastal protection, agriculture and the tourist industry.

At the end of the conference you pass (ratify) a common minister declaration, with decisions supported by all three ministers of the bordering Wadden Sea countries.

Decisions can mean that one finds a compromise as well as that single questions be delayed because there are certain aspects that still need to be clarified or they simply aren't ready to be decided on.



This is your opening speech (statement or national position):

German Minister: *"Climate change concerns us all equally, no matter if we are Danes, Germans or Dutchmen. When the sea level rises, we have to be prepared and have protected our coasts against flooding. And also the Wadden Sea itself is endangered because of this.*

One of today's greatest task will be to fight against climate change soon enough to be able to reduce as far as possible its foreseeable catastrophic effects. However we must at the same time also prepare ourselves today that we will not be able to prevent all its consequences and that in particular the coastal regions have to be protected against its ramifications. The security of the people has the highest priority. Also the security of the economic future of the region is an important challenge. Likewise the Wadden Sea is a natural habitat of worldwide importance, which must in any case be maintained.

Therefore it is a matter of getting suggestions and making decisions concerning how to obtain a common agreement on how the Wadden Sea in the future can be protected, the security of the people maintained and still have economic use. We must find integrated solutions.

In order to do this we have asked today for a discussion with you, the inhabitants of the coast, those active in business and the nature conservationists from the coastal region. We want and will find together with you the best possible strategy!"



Work Sheet Environment Minister Netherlands

Minister Conference: "Climate change and coastal protection"

Dear Minister of the environment!

You represent the Netherlands at today's coastal protection conference. As minister of the environment it is important for you to do something for the people and nature, but naturally you are very interested in complying with the different voter groups in your own country and in reaching compromises where ever possible.

It is your task, together with the ministers of the environment from Germany and Denmark to agree on a Wadden Sea wide coastal protection strategy. In order to help develop your opinion, expert arguments will be given from the here present interest groups from nature conservation, coastal protection, agriculture and the tourist industry.

At the end of the conference you pass (ratify) a common minister declaration, with decisions supported by all three ministers of the bordering Wadden Sea countries.

Decisions can mean that one finds a compromise as well as that single questions be delayed because there are certain aspects that still need to be clarified or they simply aren't ready to be decided on.



This is your opening speech (statement or national position):

Dutch Minister: *"For centuries man has struggled with the sea. We have made new land accessible and have used the resources of the North Sea. Repeatedly we have had to accept setbacks and have paid the price.*

In coastal protection we have long standing valuable experience and very promising new ideas. With time our strategies have continually improved and we therefore can look with courage towards the future. The Wadden Sea coast is an area worth living in, which we will preserve for our children and grandchildren. Indeed the Wadden Sea is today a unique natural habitat. In the Netherlands we want to keep the present coastline and at the same time look for ways to use the natural forces of nature - natural dynamics - in order to maintain the coastal landscape. Nature conservationists and coastal protectionists in the Netherlands are already working together in diverse ways towards these goals.

In order to have a sustainable region it should be everyone's task to weigh personal interests with the interests of others and find common solutions. We must however recognize that as Wadden Sea bordering countries we also have a common responsibility. That is why we have worked together in the Wadden Sea as three countries together in this trilateral cooperation for many years now and indeed extremely successfully.

A great advantage is also that we can learn from one another and our common experiences. Truly it is this experience that we are definitely going to need in order to deal with the consequences of climate change. I am sure that at this conference we will make great steps towards reaching this goal."



Work Sheet Environment Minister Denmark

Minister Conference: "Climate change and coastal protection"

Dear Minister of the environment!

You represent Denmark at today's coastal protection conference. As minister of the environment it is important for you to do something for the people and nature, but naturally you are very interested in complying with the different voter groups in your own country and in reaching compromises where ever possible.

It is your task, together with the ministers of the environment from Germany and the Netherlands to agree on a Wadden Sea wide coastal protection strategy. In order to help develop your opinion, expert arguments will be given from the here present interest groups from nature conservation, coastal protection, agriculture and the tourist industry.

At the end of the conference you pass (ratify) a common minister declaration, with decisions supported by all three ministers of the bordering Wadden Sea countries.

Decisions can mean that one finds a compromise as well as that single questions be delayed because there are certain aspects that still need to be clarified or they simply aren't ready to be decided on.



This is your opening speech (statement or national position):

Danish Minister: *"Coastal protection is an important factor for a future existence in society. It is necessary to choose the right methods for coastal protection, in order to maintain and expand our economic strength. The security of the people has utmost priority. However, Denmark has an extremely long coastline, and the Wadden Sea part is only a small portion of this. This is a big difference from our neighbours. We have to be careful especially with expensive coastal protection measures, that they are economically sensible and affordable for our country. Naturally a sustainable environment belongs also to our goals. Denmark is deeply committed to nature on its coasts. The Wadden Sea even requires our common protection. We have shown dedication to this goal in our truly international model trilateral cooperation, for it exists as an ecosystem, far beyond our country borders, of worldwide importance. Nearly all of the Wadden Sea area is therefore also protected through European laws. Following an era in which only nationalistic thought prevailed, we are now in an era of communication and cooperation, from which the coastal regions will ultimately profit. Our common experience will make us strong for meeting all challenges."*