



The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization
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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTORATE GENERAL

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR J. P. LENG
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EU**

**KEDO GENERAL CONFERENCE
NEW YORK 23 MAY 2002**

- (1) Once again we are here today members of the Executive Board together with all KEDO members to take stock of the state of the project, to appreciate the progress made so far and to look at the work ahead of us. As the report presented to us shows real progress has been made and in a couple of months the pouring of concrete will mark another milestone in this difficult but unique endeavour.

But we are also well aware of the remaining considerable difficulties resulting from the technical complexity of the project and the political situation. The right conditions of co-operation as well as persistence and determination will be needed for the timely completion of the project.

- (2) Let me first on behalf of the EU tell our Chairman of the Board Ambassador Chang how grateful we are for the devotion he is giving to his task and the way in which he has conducted our work, sparing no effort to help find solutions to difficult problems and keeping in touch frequently with people on the site. Let me also tell Ambassador Pritchard how much we have appreciated our constructive and friendly working relations and welcome our new colleague from Japan Ambassador Suzuki and ask him to convey all our best wishes to Ambassador Takano in his new position.
- (3) Also the leadership and wisdom of Ambassador Kartman and the competence of his colleagues in the Secretariat have been of tremendous help over the last year. I am pleased to say that the EU will soon contribute to this talented team by sending to New York a Senior Adviser to the Executive Director, who will be given important tasks.
- (4) As you well know, the EU which already has contributed more than Euro 75 million-over the last five years to the KEDO project has renewed its membership in 2001 and decided to increase its financial contribution to

Euro 100 million- for the 5 year period ending in 2005 (Euro 20 million annually).

This is concrete and tangible proof of our commitment to KEDO and of our desire to contribute to nonproliferation and peace and stability on the Asian continent and in particular to détente and rapprochement on the Korean peninsula.

- (5) The EU has welcomed the positive aspects of the recent visit by a Special Envoy of the Republic of Korea to Pyongyang and we welcome the fact that the United States and the DPRK are moving towards opening a dialogue on a wide range of matters of concern to everyone.
- (6) For our part, we continue to engage the DPRK and support President's Kim Dae Jung's 'sunshine' engagement policy. In mid June the EU Troika at Director level plans to go to Pyongyang to meet their North Korean counterparts while, in addition to its increased contribution to KEDO, the EU will continue to deliver food and humanitarian aid to the DPRK. More than Euro 240 million on such aid has been spent so far. We are also working on two pilot projects on technical assistance in the field of training and energy.
- (7) At the same time the EU has made it clear that further advance in our bilateral relations will very much depend on North Korean readiness to implement the commitments made at the inter Korean summit in Pyongyang in 2000 and that human rights will continue to be high on our agenda.
- (8) Turning back more specifically to KEDO Mr Chairman, I would like to assure you that the EU will continue to work with you constructively on the Board and to participate in working groups or consultative groups as well as in KEDO's meetings with the DPRK.