

Germany

Madam Chair,

Let me start with congratulating you on your chairmanship, I congratulate with you as representative of the German delegation but also with my function as EU presidency, on behalf of the European Community and its Members States, which are parties and signatories to the Protocol.

I can inform you that Germany will be a party to the Protocol at the latest in spring this year. Germany is looking forward to cooperating with you all in implementing the Protocol.

I join Finland in stating that Germany also will not have big problems in implementing the Protocol, because Germany is already obliged to implement several EC Directives in the Water sector, which cover the majority of the Protocol's provisions, against this background we would like to discuss the question of EU ratification of the Protocol on EU level.