

## Opening remarks

by *Dr. Peer Hoth*, Head of the CCS division  
at the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology

State Secretary Ms. Blakstad,  
Under Secretary of State Mr. Dycha,  
Esteemed representatives from government, the private sector and research institutions,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's BASREC conference on Carbon Capture and Storage here in Warsaw.

Please allow me to start with some personal words.  
I herewith would like to express condolences to all those affected by the severe train accident near Krakow and to the Polish authorities. My deepest sympathy is with the relatives of the victims.

On behalf of the German BASREC Presidency, I would like to thank the Polish and Norwegian governments for organising this interesting meeting here at the Polish Ministry of Economy.

Let me start by briefly highlighting the main priorities of the German BASREC Presidency from 2011-2012:

1. We would like to contribute to the development of secure and affordable energy systems with low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Baltic Sea Countries.
2. We envisage to further enhance cooperation on the expansion of renewable energy sources, the increase of energy efficiency and the integration of energy infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region.
3. We will pursue this by completing and following-up on project activities of the BASREC budget framework 2009-2011.
4. And it goes without saying that we would like to hold a successful BASREC Ministerial Meeting in May 2012 in Berlin providing new perspectives for further cooperation.
5. Last but not least, we want to provide the basis for a successful Russian BASREC presidency 2012-2013, which will start in July 2012.

As you can see, there is plenty of work lying ahead of us in the next months!

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
BASREC is currently in a very important phase. We are in the final phase of the current BASREC budget framework, which enables us to undertake concrete project activities.

In 2009, energy ministers asked us to undertake reviews, studies, workshops, projects and other activities for the three-year period of co-operation from 2009 to 2011.

And we have set up a number of projects:

- an analysis of conditions for wind power in the Baltic Sea Region,
- a Baltic Revolving Energy Planning Academy,
- a study on Energy Efficiency investments for Street Lighting,
- a roundtable on clean energy and energy efficiency in the Baltic Sea region as well as
- a comprehensive energy policy strategy for the Baltic Sea region in the post-Kyoto period,
- and – most importantly for today – an analysis on transportation and storage solutions for CO<sub>2</sub> in the Baltic Sea Region.

With these projects, BASREC aims to show that the Baltic Sea Region can become a frontrunner in developing future energy policies that ensure both climate compatibility and energy security.

Crucial components are improved energy efficiency, the increased use of renewable energies, the expansion of the electricity transmission grid as well as CO<sub>2</sub> Capture, Storage and Utilization (CCS/CCUS).

I am convinced that if we can demonstrate the technical, economical and environmental feasibility of CCS technologies, the Baltic Sea Region can benefit from increased cooperation on cross-border transportation and storage solutions in order to deploy CCS technologies more cost-effectively.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All of the BASREC projects will be completed by this spring and be presented at the upcoming BASREC Energy Ministers' Meeting in May.

Let me conclude by informing you that we have launched a new BASREC website with substantial background information on our cooperation ([www.basrec.net](http://www.basrec.net)). You are invited to visit us online!

I would like to thank you for your attention and I wish all of us two days of informative presentations and stimulating discussions on the prospects of CCS and CCUS technologies.

Thank you for your attention.