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A very good afternoon to all.

I will present you some information about the German Alliance for Work and the Environment. Behind me there are very practical measures about the energy efficiency of buildings. What is very important – everybody can do it. That's what I want to say. That is, I think, the reason it's good for our discussion. We have to continue in the unions, not only in the states and around the world. We have to do it because we cannot save this world only in Europe only in the [United] States or only in Asia, or somewhere else.

But before I will start, I can't start without saying really compliments to Cornell University and to the North American unions for this really important conference today. It's really a pleasure to be here I can say. (Applause.)

With my first picture, I will show only that we are in the situation of rising greenhouse gases. I don't want to discuss all these things. The IPCC Report from Paris, the first one, demands a dramatic reduction from us. What is important for this is what I will present to you today. Last week on Friday, the IPCC report from Bangkok, that was part three, said clearly "Increased energy efficiency of buildings plays a significant role in the fight against climate change." I think it is good that I'm here to exchange this information. I think that's what we have to do as unions.

To reach the Kyoto targets, additional measures of carbon dioxide reduction are necessary like in transport, like in energy production, like extension of renewable energies and so on. What is necessary is that countries like United States, Canada, China, India must follow, as well, on this way. We can't save this world *only*, what I said, in Europe or in Asia or in Australia or somewhere else. We must work *together* and I think that one strong work we have to do as unions is to work together worldwide in this case.

On the other picture I will say we have worldwide unemployment. I don't want to discuss these figures from the different countries. I will only say what we have to do, what our job as unions is to reduce unemployment worldwide. If I take this together we will come to the Alliance for a Work and the Environment. When we discuss this environmental destruction and unemployment in Germany, we come straight to work on programs which will combine both work and environment. That means at last to bring this together and to organize from these few programs. We can go to our politicians, to the government, and say "if we have a good idea, you might as well follow and support us."

The DGB, in 1998, along with affiliated unions [created] a program to renovate existing buildings by energy saving and energy efficiency measures contributing to climate protection and creating sustainable jobs. The immediate objective was to improve insulation of buildings, advance heating technologies, and the use renewable energy such as photovoltaic or solar thermal systems. Hundreds of thousands of jobs are anticipated in the construction, insulation, heating, sanitary, air conditioning and building services. The DGB created this Alliance for Work and Environment in 1999 by cooperating with government, environmental NGOs and employer's federations.

What are the objectives of this program? To renovate 200 thousand apartments a year, create 200 thousand jobs, reduce 2 million carbon dioxide per year in tons, lower heating bills for tenants and landlords, unburden the state of about 400 billion US dollars through reduction of unemployment costs, increase income tax, and last but not least, to get more independence from oil imports.

What is the concept behind this? The concept is to go in the direction of the three-liter house. That means to calculate a 100-square meter house or a 100-square meter flat, whatever, it doesn't matter. To go in this direction, to use all measures we have at this time, and we have lots, to get with this concept forward. The concept means improving the heat insulation of buildings. That means roof, windows and walls, more efficient energy supply in the house by replacement of condensing boiler, low temperature heating boiler, and for the future, I think the solution of hydrogen fuel source for stationary heating. Increasing use of renewable energy supply,

application of photovoltaic and solar thermal systems for self-supply with electricity and hot water are the direction of the future.

We have in Germany already these houses. We go in the direction of the “passive” house. That means you don’t have to use external energy, or a solar energy house so you don’t need anymore energy. And what is the next step? That’s what we have developed, the energy-producing house. Everybody has solar and photovoltaic on the roof and you can give to the society the electricity you don’t need anymore. That’s for the future. I think the development and in this direction I think we must try to move.

This tri-liter house, three-liter house, you will find in this picture, I will show you only that the energy consumption, that this calculation from 100 square meter house or 100 square meter flat, that the energy consumption will go down with a 80 percent reduction. In these old houses you use about 2000 liters oil, means, when you make all these measures you are down on 300 liters per year. That means at the same time the carbon dioxide emissions will go down 80 percent reduction. That means at the same time your heating costs will go down 80 percent reduction. You will feel it in your wallet. That’s important. I think not only environmental protection measures. No. We must organize it as well that we have something from it, and for our members in the unions. You pay only 20 percent from the oil bill before, that’s the way. I think we must really look. There is something for our members.

We have, as well, technical innovations leading to new markets. That’s not unimportant from the discussion this morning. Low temperature heating, hydrogen technology, fuel cells, photovoltaics and solar thermal systems, cross flow heat exchange, thermal glass windows and thermal insulation material will all be next years on the market.

We have, as well, positive effects for the cities. The revitalization of city centers or quarters, less use of ground, less extension of suburbs, shortways are promoted, rush hour traffic is reduced, and quality of life for inhabitants is increased. That’s as well lots of reasons to go in this direction.

What are the employment effects? Hundreds of thousands of jobs are generated in construction, heating insulation and so on, and other jobs in insulation, glass production, thermal insulation material, construction material, photovoltaic and solar thermal systems. And additional jobs are generated by consulting architects, consulting engineers, environmental consultants, and so on.

The financing for this program is provided by the German Government. The first money we got for the time between 2001 up to 2005 is about 1.8 billion U.S. dollars. That was the first support by the red and green government we had before. Now, by this black and red government, we've had more success. I think they know already where the direction is they have to go. We got their financing for the program already with 8.1 billion US dollars. That means only a support. That's the reason why the program will in the last years will really rise up with all of that. The total of 15 billion US dollars of investments are already available at end of 2006 through credits at favorable rates of interest.

On this picture we will see the monthly development of the credits of this program with this red line in million euros monthly. The blue one will show you the accumulated investments. Between 2001, when this program started, when we had this idea, together with other unions, environmental groups and where we worked together in industry, we had at the time between 2001 and now December 2006 already 11 billion euros of investments organized. That means 15 billion US dollars. That's a lot for the unions. You must think about it. That's not the government, the idea was from us. The money is now to support us from the government. We nearly are reaching our targets 2006. That doesn't mean we want to stop it; only that you know where we are now at this time.

December 2006, we had already 265 [000] apartments renovated. Before, we said we wanted to make 300,000 thousand. 190 thousand of jobs are created. That's nearly, we said, 200,000 was our target. 900,000 tons carbon dioxide are reduced. 54 billion US dollars for heating costs are saved. That's already something like near this target what we want to reach. We want to continue and extend the program because we've had good effects. By the way, we have already 240,000 jobs by wind and biomass, for example, in 2006 through extension of renewable energy with a support program by the government. What is more important is that we expect 500,000

jobs in 2020. That means it will go up, really, if you organize something like this and I think these are the sustainable jobs for the future. We must really look as unions to organize something like this. If you look at the whole figure in Germany, we have around 1.6 million people who work in the environmental sector in Germany. That means if you compare it, it is *more* than we have people working in the *whole* automobile industry in Germany. That's something. You must think about it. That's a new, really, a big field.

We have, as well, additional support by the European Energy Efficiency Directive and Action Plan. The priority objective is the improvement of energy efficiency of buildings in *all* member states of Europe now. Not only that we make this in Germany, that we'll be spread over Europe. The measures applies for existing buildings where the biggest potential for energy saving exists.

What is interesting now, this was mentioned on last Friday by the IPCC report in Bangkok, mentioned that this will get a significant role in the fight against climate change.

If real estate is sold or rented, you need in the future energy passport in Germany and in Europe for buildings to be issued, which informs you about the heat demand of the building. The energy demand of the building will become an important competitive factor on the real estate market. For the public, you can make it visible. For example, if you give these houses a green number, like you have it as well and you know it for the fridge for example, you can show somebody. If you want to rent a flat there or a house, you can be sure there you don't have a second rent for energy. Like you must pay already the first rent to rent a house, no? So that means something. This will be low. I think that's something which would really help; that people could really follow this way.

In 2004, the DGB recommended already to the Irish EU Presidency to implement this program in a European Growth and Employment Initiative with support by all European unions in the ETUC, Environmental NGOs and the EB, and the social platform on a European Conference at Dublin. Joel Decaillon who is here for the ETUC, he was the one who organized this Dublin Conference 2004. With success, in 2006, the DGB recommended the German Government to integrate this program in the policy for the German EU Presidency 2007. On EU's Spring

Summit in March 2007, it *was* integrated because we put pressure on our government. And as well, it is in the action plan at Agile Efficiency of the EU Commission and the Energy Policy of Europe.

For me and I think for a lot of people as well, it looks like we *are really* on the way for a European Alliance for a Working Environment. I think it's a little bit similar to your Apollo Alliance, what you will have in the states. They are, as well, working together: unions, environmental groups, social groups, business. I think maybe that's something similar and that's the way maybe for the future. We have to go and organize it better and maybe exchange more information between the unions about what we are doing.

Energy efficiency of buildings is interesting for countries worldwide because climate protection, energy saving, and, first of all, new jobs are needed worldwide. In 2007, DGB recommended for the German Government to integrate this program in the policy for the German G8 Presidency with success. It will be now under G8 Summit that June 2007 in Germany in Heiligendamm and maybe in the G8.

The next step is going for "global alliance for a working environment." Maybe our working together will help, as well, on the union side. We can help each other and make more pressure. We are in the consultations under GI Summit together, the unions as well from the United States. We have this delegation speaking with our Chancellor Merkel, who is this year the boss for the GI Summit. In this consultation I think maybe we can push something forward. I hope that this conference and our information exchange maybe will make us stronger in the future. That would be a prospective for the next years.

Thank you for your attention.