

**THE MINISTER'S TALKING POINTS
ON 26 JANUARY 2009 AT THE FOUNDING CONFERENCE FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA)**

Dear Conference participants and guests,

- Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Federal Republic of Germany and other countries that have supported the initiative to establish an International Renewable Energy Agency and to congratulate all of you who have gathered here today to sign the Statute.
- Lithuania, like many other states, is dependent on import of energy sources. We are paying the highest price in Europe for Russia's natural gas. Therefore, increasing the use of renewable energy for Lithuania is a particularly topical field. The serious negative impact that the use of fossil fuels can have on climate change and the global ecological situation raises no doubts anymore.
- Increasing the use of renewable energy sources is one of the priorities of the new programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Given the prevailing energy and economic situation as well as new obligations, this year we are going to approve an updated national energy strategy. We will strive to increase the share of renewable energy to at least 23% in the national final energy consumption by 2020. 80% of the national district heating is produced from natural gas. We will seek to cut this natural gas consumption by half. We are going to take other measures to remove obstacles to advancing the use of renewable energy sources.
- The contribution of the International Renewable Energy Agency to be founded to poverty alleviation and removing obstacles to sustainable development caused by the absence of energy supply is definitely undoubted. I am sure this Agency to be a great help in increasing the use of renewable energy sources for all states interested in this process.

Thank you for your attention.