



Time: 13:35-13:40

March 10 2010

Welcome speech

First of all I wish you a warm welcome to Denmark.

Denmark has contrary to all expectations with the global climate change, which has resulted in a rise in average temperature, and a done COP 15 addressing the rise in global temperature, just got over the coldest and longest winter in the past 13 years. That was a surprise for all of us, but personally I liked it a lot. It has been a winter as I remember winter, when I was a child.

I am very pleased that you have invited us to open the seminar on Auditing Climate Change.

- **Environmental and climate audits in The National Audit Office of Denmark**

In the National Audit Office of Denmark we are very much focused on environmental and climate issues in both our financial audits and performance audits, but do not have a specialized unit or department dealing with environmental and climate issues as e.g. Canada and Austria have.

In connection to our planning on the environmental and climate area in 2008 the Danish SAI performed a strategic analysis of the national sustainable development strategy focusing on environment and in 2009 an analysis on energy savings in the public sector.

The audits are prioritized as other areas, taking relevance and risk into consideration. This means eventually that we do not necessarily make an audit every year in these areas.

The Danish SAI has in the recent years conducted several environmental audits. The national Audit Office of Denmark has in recent years participated in 3 parallel environmental audits with other SAI's.

- a joint parallel audit on climate change in 2008/2009 coordinated by the Polish SAI.
- a joint parallel audit coordinated by the Danish SAI in 2008/2009 on environmental monitoring and fisheries management and control in the Baltic Sea
- A joint parallel audit coordinated by the Danish SAI in 2004/2005 on oil pollution from ships in the Baltic Sea.

We have very good experiences from our participation in these joint parallel audits and are surely looking for other possibilities to participate in joint parallel environmental audits in Europe.

We are still looking forward to doing a national performance audit on climate change. Therefore we greet this seminar, because we get the chance to be inspired by the SAI's who have experiences from auditing this area.

Our contribution to the seminar is a presentation on our strategic analysis on auditing energy savings in the public sector.

Thank you very much for your time and I wish you a successful seminar on Auditing Climate Change in the location of The European Environment Agency.