



## **SAMAK's annual meeting on 10 February 2009**

### **Statement**

**When the whole world casts its eyes on Copenhagen and the UN climate change summit, the Nordic trade union movement and the Nordic social democratic parties must take the lead in formulating a comprehensive, ambitious and binding agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol.**

The Nordic region has a unique chance of having a say in the global climate agenda. The UN Climate Change Conference, COP15, is scheduled for Copenhagen in December 2009, and Sweden will be holding the presidency of the European Union at the time.

### **Nordic region and UN climate change summit in Copenhagen in December 2009**

At the annual meeting in 2008, SAMAK said in its resolution "Nordic region to take the lead in the fight against climate change" that the Nordic region must be a pioneer and lead the way to a revised climate policy set-up where energy policy and jobs go hand in hand with consideration for the environment and climate.

The analyses presented by IPCC, IEA and other international research environments reveal that the trend in the global economy takes us on a course that constitutes a threat to many countries, people and regions – especially in the third world. A comprehensive global agreement is now called for, in which all countries participate, and the industries facing competition in the various countries need not be affected by being subjected to different obligations. This will pave the way for a more sustainable global economy. SAMAK, the trade union movement and the social democratic parties in the Nordic region will therefore foster the work for a global agreement with even more ambitious goals than the ones set out in the Kyoto Protocol and with more effective means.

All countries must undertake to reduce emissions. The Nordic countries must speak with one clear voice, stating that the rich countries must follow up their existing obligations under the Kyoto Protocol and pay for the poor countries to reduce emissions. This requires, for instance, effective global certification and control systems for quota buying and measures to be established in other countries.

Sustainable development in the transport sector, e.g. through a shift to electrification and low-emission fuels for vehicles and initiatives focusing on public environment-friendly solutions for transport of freight and people, is quite simply a must for a low-emission society to be established. Sea and air traffic must also be comprised by the global agreement.

This requires a targeted change and conversion of the patterns of heating, consumption, transport and production as well as significant popular mobilisation. Such conversion will

take much readjustment, but will also create many new and more sustainable jobs. The ILO agenda for decent jobs needs to be combined with green jobs. In the Nordic region, we are particularly well prepared to face this development if we enhance our cooperation model, which is based on employees' co-determination and an active labour market policy.

We must ensure that the pronounced changes induced by the global financial crisis take the economy on a more sustainable track. The Norwegian package of measures presented in January 2009 with climate-oriented measures totalling NOK 5 billion shows that this is possible and that it is also an effective tool in the work to underpin the goal of full employment.

SAMAK believes that measures aiming at greater employment through a shift to renewable energy, energy efficiency enhancement and CO<sub>2</sub> handling are paramount – even in the light of the financial crisis. Even though the Nordic countries have come a long way in terms of fulfilling the goals of a large share of renewable energy, they can do more to replace non-renewable energy consumption and should concentrate on research in and development of environment technology solutions.

The necessary supply of energy to the labour-intensive industrial and service sectors must be ensured through energy efficiency enhancement, versatile and new energy sources and advanced Nordic and European cooperation.

### **Europe: a strategy for forward-looking green growth and green jobs**

The EU should ensure that the work performed by European countries to solve the financial crisis also contributes to solving climate problems. Forward-looking green growth is a key tool for creating new jobs throughout Europe. We need to solve these two crisis scenarios together.

Hence, the EU should devise a joint strategy for green growth and green jobs.

In January 2009, the European Commission tabled a proposal for how to replace the existing Kyoto Protocol – an initiative to help prepare the agenda for the coming UN climate change summit. Now, the European Parliament must stick to the perspective inherent in the proposal tabled by the European Commission. The conservative parties in the European Parliament must be prevented from diluting the proposal. So it is important that the social democrats have a strong election to the European Parliament in June 2009.

The Swedish EU presidency will also offer the Nordic region a special opportunity to leave its mark on the agenda. We need to go beyond the European Commission initiative. The goal should be to make the EU the most competitive green economy in the world by 2020.

The coming Swedish EU presidency should speed up the preparation of a strategy to reach the goal of forward-looking green growth and green jobs by 2020.

The first step in the process could be to convene a European conference to formulate a sustainable strategy for forward-looking green growth. This can serve as the basis for a

Stockholm strategy to establish the most competitive green economy in the world. Such a strategy must help us create 10 million new jobs in Europe in the course of the next 10 years.

A global climate outcome in Copenhagen and a Stockholm strategy for forward-looking green growth in Europe will place the Nordic region in the spotlight in the solution of climate problems.

As social democrats and trade union movement in the Nordic region we will contribute to this. SAMAK will therefore gather the Nordic trade union movement and the social democratic parties at an international climate seminar where we can have a technical-political dialogue about our climate and energy policy goals and prepare for how to achieve an optimum outcome of the climate change summit in Copenhagen and European developments. The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions will host the seminar in Oslo later this year.