

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 18 November 1974

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

establishing a common procedure for the reciprocal exchange of
information between the surveillance and monitoring networks
based on data relating to atmospheric pollution by sulphur
compounds and suspended particulates

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The object of this Decision concerns the establishment by the Member States, in accordance with certain procedures, of a communication system for reciprocal exchange of information based on data collected by the regional and national surveillance and monitoring networks relating to atmospheric air pollution by sulphur compounds and suspended particulates.

This Decision is presented as a part of the Programme of action of the European Communities on the environment which makes provision for the exchange of information between surveillance and monitoring networks (Part II, Title I, Chapter 3, Section 1).

Of the pollutants in the first category (Programme of action on the environment, Part II, Title I, Chapter 1), only atmospheric sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates are systematically and intensively monitored in all the Member States of the European Community.

Other pollutants will be considered depending on the availability of data and in the light of experience gained in the processing of data relating to sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates at Community level.

About 2 500 permanent stations and 6 000 random points for sulphur dioxide and 2 300 permanent stations and 6 000 random points for suspended particulates are known to exist. Almost all cities with a population exceeding half a million are covered by monitoring networks of varying densities. Nearly 90% of all the continuously monitoring stations are located near urban areas or in the neighbourhood of industrial installations.

The analytical methods most commonly used in the Member States for the determination of atmospheric sulphur dioxide levels are: the para-rosaniline, hydrogen peroxide, thorin and Stratmann methods, as well as the techniques based on coulometry, conductimetry, flame photometry and colorimetry.

Suspended particulates are determined by gravimetry or by analysis of black smoke.

These methods are currently under investigation, with the aid of intercomparison programmes, the objective being to harmonize measurement results.

An exchange of information based on the data selected by Member States will allow characterization of the pollution levels to which the public in the European Community is subjected, the variations of these levels in time and space and the abatement of pollution as anti-pollution policies are implemented.

It would also be a practical way of establishing, at Community level, how an effective atmospheric pollution data surveillance network can be developed to meet the specific needs of the European Community in the field of environmental protection and to form an integral part of the Global Environmental Monitoring System under the Environmental Action Programme of the United Nations.

This Decision lays down the conditions for the selection of the sites and data required for the information exchange. In view of the abundance and diversity of the data available, a selection is essential if this necessary information is to be supplied within the limits of existing resources.

In particular, this information will provide basic data for the preparation of anti-pollution measures at both Community and national levels.

This Decision is based on Article 235 of the EEC Treaty; in accordance with its provisions, therefore, both the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee must be consulted.

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

establishing a common procedure for the reciprocal exchange of information between the surveillance and monitoring networks based on data relating to atmospheric pollution by sulphur compounds and suspended particulates

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ,

HAVING REGARD TO the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof ;

HAVING REGARD TO the proposal from the Commission ;

HAVING REGARD TO the Opinion of the European Parliament ;

HAVING REGARD to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ;

WHEREAS the Programme of Action of the European Communities on the Environment⁽¹⁾ makes provision for the establishment of a procedure for the reciprocal exchange of information between the pollution surveillance and monitoring networks ;

WHEREAS this procedure is necessary to combat pollution and nuisances, this being one of the Community objectives concerning the improvement of the quality of life and to promote throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities and a continuous and balanced expansion, and whereas the necessary powers to this end are not provided by the Treaty ;

(1) O.J. C 112, 20.12.1973, p. 1.

Whereas the transport of pollutants over long distances and the harmful effects of their combination necessitate surveillance at regional, national, Community and global levels;

Whereas the exchange of the results of pollution measurements provides a means of keeping abreast of improvements resulting from national legislation or from that which may be introduced at Community level;

Whereas the results of pollution measurements constitute essential information for carrying out epidemiological surveys to provide a better understanding of the harmful effects of pollutants on health;

Whereas since only sulphur compounds and suspended particulates are systematically and intensively monitored in the Member States it is not appropriate to include other substances at present;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION :

Article 1

A common procedure shall be established for the reciprocal exchange by the surveillance and monitoring networks of information relating to atmospheric pollution. This procedure shall apply to the results of environmental measurements of sulphur compounds and suspended particulates.

Article 2

Each Member State shall, having regard to the criteria set out in Annex 1 to this Decision, select from existing or planned sampling and/or monitoring stations, those which are to supply the data for the exchange of information. It shall inform the Commission of its selection by means of the form set out in Annex 2.

Article 3

- 1) The daily averages for the two pollutants recorded at each station shall be transmitted monthly by the Member States to the Commission within three months following the measurements.

These daily averages, both for sulphur compounds and for suspended particulates, shall be expressed in microgrammes per cubic metre of air at standard temperature and pressure.

- 2) Each Member State shall designate the person or body responsible for data collection and transmission and shall inform the Commission.
- 3) The Commission shall each quarter prepare for validation by each Member State full tabular reports of the data received and shall also prepare summaries thereof for circulation among the Member States.
- 4) An annual report shall be prepared by the Commission on the basis of these data and of additional information provided by the Member States.

Article 4

Annexes 1 and 2 to this Decision shall form an integral part thereof.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

ANNEX I

- 1) The selection of sampling and/or monitoring stations shall be based mainly on geographic and demographic parameters (urban and rural areas, size of cities, residential or predominantly industrial zones) and on pollution levels (maximum, average and minimum).

- 2) Geographic and demographic parameters

Six categories shall be established:

- cities or urban areas with more than 2 million inhabitants;
- cities or urban areas having between 1 and 2 million inhabitants;
- cities or urban areas having between 0.5 and 1 million inhabitants;
- cities or urban areas having between 0.1 and 0.5 million inhabitants;
- cities or urban areas with less than 0.1 million inhabitants;
- rural areas.

Each Member State shall specify a maximum of five cities or urban areas representative of the different types of urbanization (demographic conditions) and of geographic regions (topographic and climatic conditions) in each of the first five categories. Within each of these categories:

two types of zone shall be considered:

- residential zones, including business districts where the main stationary source of pollution is heating;
- predominantly industrial zones.

The distinction between residential and predominantly industrial zones shall be based on the topography and the type of activity, and not on the origin of the existing or measured pollution.

Each Member State shall specify a maximum of five rural areas in which the pollutants under consideration are measured.

- 3) Parameters relating to pollution levels

In each city or urban area for which there is a sufficient number of representative sites, three sampling and/or monitoring stations shall be specified for each zone on the basis of the pollution levels measured.

by the existing networks: maximum, average and minimum. The stations designated must be representative of the conditions obtaining around the sampling point and not be under the direct and immediate influence of a pollution source.

4) Characterization of the stations

The stations thus selected will serve as "characteristic stations" for the evaluation of pollution levels in the various regions of the Community.

ANNEX 2

Each station shall be precisely identified by the following form of description.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION MONITORING SITES

1. Name of the site, including municipality and country :
.....
2. Organization responsible for measurements, including address, telephone number and name of the person responsible :
.....
3. Geographic and demographic parameters. Classify the site as ONE of the following six categories :
 cities or urban areas with more than 2 million inhabitants
 cities or urban areas having between 1 and 2 million inhabitants
 cities or urban areas having between 0.5 and 1 million inhabitants
 cities or urban areas having between 0.1 and 0.5 million inhabitants
 cities or urban areas with less than 0.1 million inhabitants
 rural areas.
4. Location of the sampling site (e.g. address) :
.....
 industrial ; commercial or residential
 Cross the appropriate square.
5. Notes on the location and characteristics of the site (stating whether it is part of a network and, if so, the sampling height above ground, the distance from a main road, the distance from the main pollution sources etc.) :
.....
.....
6. Estimated area of the zone for which the sampling site is representative of the pollution level :
.....
7. Atmospheric pollutants sampled (and/or monitored on the site) :
 SO₂ ; suspended particulates ; black smoke
 Others (give details) :
.....
.....

8. Other parameters (meteorological etc.) measured at the same site :

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Pollutant : Suspended particules

Form. Ref. No :

9.1 Sampling method used :
.....
.....

10.1 Analytical method used :
.....
.....

11.1 Duration and frequency of sampling :
Normal time of start of sampling :
Normal time of end of sampling :
*Duration of each sampling :

12.1 Method and frequency of calibration :
.....
.....

13.1 Date when monitoring of this pollutant began at this site :
.....

*Indicate non-integrating continuous analyses by C

Pollutant : Black smoke

Form. Ref. No. :

9.2 Sampling methods used :

.....
.....
.....

10.2 Analytical method used : ,.....

.....
.....
.....

11.2 Duration and frequency of sampling :

Normal time of start of sampling :.....

Normal time of end of sampling :

*Duration of each sampling :

12.2 Method and frequency of calibration :

.....
.....
.....

13.2 Date when monitoring of this pollutant began at this site :

.....

*Indicate non-integrating continuous analyses by C

Pollutant : SO₂

Form. Ref. No. :

9.3 Sampling methods used :
.....
.....

10.3 Analytical method used :
.....
.....

11.3 Duration and frequency of sampling :
Normal time of start of sampling :
Normal time of end of sampling :
*Duration of each sampling :

12.3 Method and frequency of calibration :
.....
.....

13.3 Date when monitoring of this pollutant began at this site :
.....

*Indicate non-integrating continuous analyses by

