

# European Community

## News Release

ACID RAIN SYMPOSIUM, 19-21 SEPTEMBER 1983  
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The Commission of the European Communities, together with the Kernforschungszentrum Karlsruhe, is holding a major symposium in Karlsruhe from 19-21 September 1983. ACID DEPOSITION - A CHALLENGE FOR EUROPE will bring together leading scientists from European nations and representatives from the institutions of the E.C. and national governments to review present knowledge and further research requirements in the field.

It is an established fact that acid-rain pollution is a transfrontier phenomenon and as such requires concerted cooperative action at the Community level. At the meeting of the European Council in Stuttgart in June 1983, the Ten recognized the urgency of the problem and the necessity to take coordinated and effective initiatives both within the Community and internationally if irreversible destruction of European forests is to be avoided.

The Community has already taken a number of measures in recent years to limit air pollution. Notable among these measures was the introduction in 1975 of a common procedure for the exchange of information between the surveillance and monitoring networks on sulphur compounds and suspended particulates. This was renewed in 1982 and extended to other pollutants - ozone and oxides of nitrogen in particular. In 1980 the Council of Ministers adopted a directive laying down limit and guide values for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates; in 1982 it adopted a further directive laying down a limit value for airborne lead. At the international level, in July 1982, the EC ratified the Geneva Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution.

Member States have taken other measures at the national level, that include licensing or reporting schemes for particular categories of industrial plants. However, the Commission believes that these measures have to be supplemented where Community directives have not all been implemented to the same extent by the member states.

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 **Delegation of the Commission  
of the European Communities**  
Press and Information Service

To formulate effective legislation for dealing with acid-rain pollution requires a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon. Three objectives will be pursued in Karlsruhe:

1. to seek a consensus on the origins, effects and socio-economic consequences of acid fallout both now and in the immediate future;
2. to review the technologies available for reducing SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> emissions and possible ways of improving them; and
3. to identify research, development and demonstration requirements in this field.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Darlene Nowlan of our Press and Information Office in Ottawa.

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