

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7583/79 (Presse 75)

587th Council meeting

- Environment -

Luxembourg, 19 June 1979

President: Mr Michel D'ORNANO,

Minister for the Environment and the Quality of
Life of the French Republic

PRESS RELEASE

Luxembourg, 20 june 1979

7583 e/79 (Presse 75) Corr. 1 (d,i,e,dk)

C O R R I G E N D U M

to the Press Release
7583/79 (Presse 75) of 19.VI.1979
concerns English, Italian, Danish
and German translations only

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In the Press Release issued after the 587th Council meeting (Environment) held in Luxembourg on 19 june 1979 the first indent of paragraph 3 on page 9 should read :

-"the need to maintain in the Directive a system of limit values (Annex I) and guide values (Annex II) referring to the values recommended by the WHO ;"

19.VI.79

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Luc DHOORE Minister for Health and the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Niels MATTHIASSEN Minister for Cultural Affairs
Mr Holger LAVESEN State Secretary,
Ministry for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Gerhardt BAUM Federal Minister for the Interior
Mr Günter HARTKOPF State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for the Interior

France:

Mr Michel D'ORNANO Minister for the Environment and
the Quality of Life
Mr François DELMAS State Secretary,
Ministry for the Environment and
the Quality of Life

Ireland:

Mr Sylvester BARRETT Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Giorgio POSTAL Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry for Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr L GINJAAR

Minister for Health and the
Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr Tom KING

Minister of State,
Department of the Environment

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER

Following a discussion during which it settled the final questions outstanding, the Council approved the Directive on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances.

The aim of this Directive is to protect groundwater from pollution in the future and to eliminate or at least reduce existing pollution by prohibiting the discharge of certain particularly dangerous substances into groundwater and by laying down detailed rules for the discharge of certain other less dangerous substances. The Directive thus covers both direct and indirect (filtration through the ground) discharge of both categories and also stipulates the conditions which must be met for derogations from the prohibition as well as the prior investigation procedures which must precede any exceptional authorization to discharge and the particulars which must be given in such authorizations.

The Member States, which have two years in which to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the Directive, will keep an inventory of all authorizations to discharge which they grant, the main provisions of which will be communicated to the Commission at its request. The Commission may also participate in the prior consultations between the Member States concerned relating to any discharge into transfrontier groundwater.

SURFACE WATER INTENDED FOR THE ABSTRACTION OF DRINKING WATER

The Council recorded its agreement on the Directive on the methods of measurement and frequencies of sampling and analysis of the parameters of the quality required of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water in the Member States.

This Directive lays down reference methods for measuring the parameters of Directive 75/440/EEC concerning the physical, chemical and microbiological characteristics required of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water, and the frequency of sampling and analysis of these parameters. It also sets up a Committee for Adaptation to Technical and Scientific Progress so that, where necessary, the required amendments can be made to the reference methods of measurement, the limit of detection, the accuracy and precision of the methods, and the materials recommended for the container used.

The Member States have a time limit of two years from the time of notification to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions to comply with this Directive.

HYDROCARBONS DISCHARGED AT SEA

The Council took note of a statement by Mr NATALI, Vice-President of the Commission, on the progress of the Commission's work on implementation of the action programme of the European Communities on the control and reduction of pollution caused by hydrocarbons discharged at sea, which was set up following the "Amoco Cadiz" disaster.

This statement described the position with regard to the various points of the action programme, relating to

- computer processing of data on ways of dealing with marine pollution by hydrocarbons,
- access in emergencies to reliable information on the features of tankers and artificial structures and on infringements committed in territorial waters,
- enhancement of the co-operation and effectiveness of emergency teams,
- possibility of Community participation in the design and development of clean-up vessels,
- the study of the amendments and improvements which may have to be made to the legal rules on insurance against the risks of accidental pollution from hydrocarbons,
- the research programme within the framework of the second multi-annual research and development programme on environmental protection (indirect action).

The statement also laid emphasis on certain priority subjects, such as:

- technologies for collecting and dispersing hydrocarbons;
- the behaviour and subsequent history of hydrocarbons at sea and the examination of the effects of chemical dispersants;
- the effects of hydrocarbons on marine flora and fauna, including exploitable resources such as fish.

In conclusion the Commission indicated that it would be submitting specific proposals in the next few months on the various points contained in its statement.

Speaking on behalf of the members of the Council, the President stressed the importance which the Council attached to work in this area.

THE QUALITY OF SHELLFISH WATERS

The Council recorded its agreement on the Directive on the quality required of shellfish waters. This Directive forms part of the environmental action programmes which provide for the setting of quality objectives for different uses of fresh and salt water, and follows on from the directives already adopted concerning the quality of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water, the quality of bathing water and the quality of fresh waters suitable for fish life.

The purpose of this Directive is both to bring about an increase in shellfish numbers under favourable conditions and to help ensure that shellfish gathered in these waters and intended for human consumption are of a high standard. It is designed to protect or indeed improve the waters in question by ensuring compliance with various binding values and guide values for a number of parameters indicated in the Annex to the Directive. It also lays down a procedure for providing the Commission with information relating to waters designated by the Member States.

SULPHUR DIOXIDE AND SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER

The Council held a detailed exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive concerning health protection standards for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulate matter in urban atmospheres, which is the first major Directive on the protection of the atmosphere.

At the end of its exchange of views the Council, taking into account the agreement on the general substance of the draft Directive, instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to study the possibility of implementing a parallel approach which does not give rise to discriminatory provisions and to report back to it at its next meeting.

The study by the Permanent Representatives Committee will take into account:

- the need to maintain in the Directive a system of limit values (Annex I) and guide values (Annex II) inspired by the values recommended by the WHO;
- the interdependence of sulphur dioxide concentrations and suspended particulate matter.

CLASSIFICATION, PACKAGING AND LABELLING OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

The Council approved the Directive amending for the sixth time the Directive of 27 June 1967 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.

This Directive, which is extremely important both for the protection of man and the environment and for the European chemical industry, makes it possible to introduce at Community level harmonized control of the placing on the market of new chemical substances, which, owing to the expansion of the industry, are constantly increasing in number and constitute a potential risk to man and the environment.

In their future legislation Member States will comply with the Community rules, which will also provide an essential basis for the Community's common position in the negotiations currently being conducted with the United States concerning the Toxic Substances Control Act (TOSCA).

The Directive will be formally adopted in the next few weeks after legal finalization of the text.



OTHER DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of foodstuffs and the Resolution on the indication of the prices of foodstuffs and non-food household products pre-packaged in pre-established quantities.

EEC-Greece Association

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation extending until 31 December 1980 the special provisions applicable to the importation into the Community from Greece of goods covered by Regulation (EEC) No 1059/69 (processed agricultural products).



NOTE B I O (79) 199 (SUITE 1 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AUX ASSISTANTS DG 1 ET VIII

C O N S E I L E N V I R O N N E M E N T (CHEVALLARD)

LE CONSEIL A EU UNE SESSION TRES FRUCTUEUSE QUI S'EST TERMINEE
A 20 H. DES RESULTATS IMPORTANTS ONT ETE OBTENUS SUR TOUS LES
DOSSIERS A L'EXAMEN.

1.
LA DIRECTIVE SUR LE REJET DES SUBSTANCES DANGEREUSES DANS LES EAUX
SOUTERRAINES A ETE ADOPTEE. -----

----- LE CONSEIL A OPTÉ POUR UN SYSTEME PLUS RESTRICTIF
EN CE QUI CONCERNE LE REJET DES SUBSTANCES MOINS NOCIVES. LE REJET
DE CES SUBSTANCES EST SOUMIS A DES AUTORISATIONS NATIONALES A
OCTROYER DE FACON LIMITATIVE APRES ENQUETE ET SOUS CONTROLE DE LA
COMMISSION.

2.
LA DIRECTIVE SUR LA QUALITE DES EAUX CONCHYLICOLES A ETE ADOPTEE.

3.
IDEM POUR LA DIRECTIVE SUR LES METHODES ET LES FREQUENCES DES
ECHANTILLONAGES DES EAUX -----

ALIMENTAIRES.

4.
UN ACCORD S'EST DESSINE SUR LA STRUCTURE ET LES PRINCIPES DE LA
DIRECTIVE CONCERNANT L'ANHYDRIDE SULFUREUX ET LES POUSSIERES.

LE C O R E P E R EST CHARGE DE POURSUIVRE LES TRAVAUX EN LA MATIERE
ETANT ACQUIS QUE LA DIRECTIVE S'ARTICULERA EN UN SYSTEME DE VALEURS
LIMITES ET DE VALEURS GUIDES FAISANT REFERENCE AUX VALEURS RECOM-
MANDEES PAR L' O M S.

CES VALEURS CONCERNENT LES CONCENTRATIONS ADMISSIBLES DE SO2
ET DE PARTICULES EN SUSPENSION PRESENTES DANS L'AIR.

5.
M. NATALI A PRESENTE UN RAPPORT SUR LA MISE EN OEUVRE DU PROGRAMME
D'ACTION EN MATIERE DE CONTROLE ET DE REDUCTION DE LA POLLUTION PAR

HYDROCARBURES. IL A ANNONCE QUE LA COMMISSION A CONCLU LES CONTRATS

D'ETUDE A CE SUJET. LES EXPERTS NATIONAUX SERONT CONVOQUES PAR LA
COMMISSION LE 4 JUILLET PROCHAIN. DES PROPOSITIONS CONCRETES SERONT
SOUMISES, LES PREMIERES D'ENTRE ELLES AVANT LA FIN DE L'ANNEE.

6.
LE CONSEIL A ADOPTE LA DIRECTIVE SUR LES SUBSTANCES DANGEREUSES QUI

SONT MISES SUR LE MARCHE.

(M. NATALI EN SE DECLARANT SATISFAIT DES RESULTATS A SOULIGNE QUE
CES DERNIERS PROUVENT QUE LES DIFFICULTES ECONOMIQUES ET ÉNERGE-
TIQUES NE FREINENT PAS LES ACTIVITES COMMUNAUTAIRES DE PROTECTION DE
L'ENVIRONNEMENT. CES RESULTATS SONT LE POINT DE DEPART DES REALISA-
TIONS A ATTEINDRE DANS DES NOUVEAUX DOMAINES SUR LA BASE DES INDICA-
TIONS FOURNIES PAR LE CONSEIL INFORMEL DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT DU MOIS
D'AVRIL DERNIER.

FIN

AMITIES,

G. CHEVALLARD

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931BROADCAST BM

