

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 22 May 1978
649/78 (Presse 68)

The Council of the European Communities will hold its 518th meeting on Tuesday 30 May 1978 (10.00) in the Charlemagne Building, 170 rue de la Loi, Brussels, with Mr Niels MATTHIASSEN, Minister for the Environment and Cultural Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark, in the Chair.

The meeting will be devoted to:

- the Directive on bird conservation
- the Directive on the composition of petrol (lead content)
- more detailed consideration of Community environmental policy (a statement by the French delegation)
- pollution of the sea caused by the transport of hydrocarbons (Commission communication)
- the Directive on the quality of fresh water suitable for fish life
- the Commission recommendation on the opening of negotiations with the United States of America on problems arising from the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
- air pollution caused by sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates (progress report).

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The President of the Council will hold a press conference at the end of the meeting.

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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

518th meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Brussels, 30 May 1978

President: Mr Niels MATTHIASSEN,
Minister for the Environment
and Cultural Affairs
of the Kingdom of Denmark

677/78 (Presse 72)

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 the Environment and Cultural Affairs

Mr Holger LAVESSEN State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment

Germany

Mr Günter HARTKOPF State Secretary, Federal Ministry of the Interior

France

Mr Michel D'ORNANO Minister for the Environment and the Quality of Life

Mr François DEIMAS State Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and the Quality of Life

Ireland

Mr Sylvester BARRETT Minister for the Environment

Italy

Mr Dario ANTONIOZZI Minister for the Environment

Mr Giorgio POSTAL Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr L. GIRJAAR

Minister for Health and the
Environment

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary for
Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Kenneth MARKS

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State at the Department
of the Environment

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

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FLUOROCARBONS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

The Council signified its agreement on the following Resolution on fluorocarbons in the environment:

"The problems of the effects of fluorocarbons on the ozone layer and of ultraviolet radiation on health cannot be ignored. Insofar as Member States are carrying out research on these problems nationally, it is desirable that they should co-operate on a Community basis in planning this research and in making available and interpreting the results. The Community of course recognizes the overall co-ordinating role of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) in relation to research.

Immediate steps should be taken to encourage all the aerosol and plastic foam industries using chlorofluorocarbons F-11 (CCl_3F) and F-12 (CCl_2F_2) to intensify research into alternative products and to promote the development of alternative methods of application.

Immediate steps should be taken to encourage the manufacturers and users of equipment containing chlorofluorocarbons F-11 and F-12 to eliminate the discharge of these compounds.

All appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that the industry situated within the Community does not increase its production capacity in respect of chlorofluorocarbons F-11 and F-12.

In the second half of 1978 the effect of fluorocarbons on the environment will be re-examined in the light of the information then available with a view to arriving at a Community policy."

SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)

After taking note of a progress report on the preparation for a Directive on air pollution caused by sulphur dioxide and suspended particulate matter, the Council resumed its discussion of 12 December and concentrated on defining the main questions still to be resolved.

In closing the discussion, during which the delegations were able to voice their concern as regards both the public health aspects of this proposal and its effects as far as industry was concerned, the Chairman stressed the importance and urgency of an appropriate solution being found to the problems of air pollution caused by sulphur dioxide. He instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to endeavour to arrive at a consensus in the light of the opinions expressed during this day's discussions.

UNITED STATES TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT

The Council authorized the Commission to begin negotiations with the United States of America in an effort to find ways of reaching agreement on the methods of applying the Toxic Substances Control Act to products from the Community, and adopted the negotiating directives required for this purpose.

STATEMENT BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION

The Council took note of a statement by Mr D'ORNANO, Head of the French delegation, regarding detailed examination of the Community environment policy.

After referring to his communication of 12 December 1977, which stressed the advisability, in view of the increasing importance of environmental protection, of holding more frequent, less formal and more political meetings, of strengthening co-operation in matters of prevention, and of drawing up European conventions on the quality of life, the Minister outlined the essential features of a European policy on the environment and framework of life.

His statement, which emphasized the political aspects of the environment, covered the prevention of the degradation and the management of natural resources in the Community, in particular with a view to elaborating an overall policy which would satisfy the requirements manifesting themselves amongst the peoples of the Member States, while taking account of both environmental and economic needs.

Following an exchange of views on this initiative, the President-in-Office invited the next Presidency to decide, in the light of the opinions expressed by the delegations during the exchange of views, on the most appropriate way for the Council to discuss this subject at its next meeting scheduled for December 1978.

POLLUTION OF THE SEA BY HYDROCARBONS

The Council,

Referring to the declaration of the European Council of 7 and 8 April 1978, dealing with marine pollution, in particular by hydrocarbons, and the need to combat this pollution;

Considering that the European Communities' Action Programmes on the Environment underline the necessity of the protection of marine waters to ensure that the indispensable ecological balances are preserved;

Conscious that marine pollution by hydrocarbons exposes the human environment to extraordinary dangers;

Considering that serious damage was caused to the marine environment by the Ekofisk blow out and by the wreck of the Amoco Cadiz;

Conscious of the need to reinforce the efforts undertaken in the Member States in order to prevent the accidents to which tankers and artificial offshore structures are exposed, and to combat the consequences of such accidents;

Conscious that it is particularly difficult to control the consequences of these accidents;

- Is of the opinion that collaboration with a view to overcoming these difficulties is a national, international and Community-level task.
- Is of the opinion that one of the aims of the Community in relation to environmental protection and the quality of life can be achieved by a Community contribution to the efforts made by the Member States to prevent and control marine pollution, in particular by oil.
- States that the Community is ready to support the co-ordination and co-operation between Member States initiated under existing Conventions.
- Considers that the establishment of the Action Programme of the European Communities to control and combat marine pollution caused by oil, submitted to the Council for decision, is an effective way of limiting considerably the above-mentioned dangers to the marine environment.
- Considers that the Commission should accordingly submit a periodic report to the Council and the European Parliament on the level of coastal pollution of Member States caused by accidental oil-spills. This report should contain mapping documentation on the endangered areas which require special protection. It should also contain information on the measures which have been taken.

Consequently the Council agreed in principle to the broad lines of a Resolution regarding an action programme of the European Communities on the control and reduction of pollution caused by oil spills at sea.

The Council also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to pursue examination of the Commission proposals for

- a decision concluding the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, of 16 February 1976, concerning co-operation in combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency;
- a Recommendation concerning negotiations by the European Economic Community with a view to its accession to the Bonn Agreement of 9 June 1969 on co-operation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize these three proposals in the light of the discussions at the present session of the Environment Council and taking into consideration the Opinions expressed by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee with a view to the adoption of these texts at the Foreign Affairs Council on 26 and 27 June 1978.

WATERS CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING FRESHWATER FISH

The Council signified its agreement on the Directive on the quality requirements for waters capable of supporting freshwater fish.

The Directive is intended to protect or improve freshwaters in which fish of the Salmonid and Cyprinid species can live or might, under certain conditions, be able to live.

To this end, Member States will designate the waters to which the Directive applies and will fix limit values as regards certain parameters for those waters - e.g. for the temperature, dissolved oxygen, ammonium, phosphorus, nitrites, chlorine, zinc and copper. When fixing the values on a national basis, Member States will have to comply with the mandatory values and endeavour to respect the guide values given in the Directive.

Taking as a basis the values thus fixed Member States will draw up programmes to reduce pollution of the designated waters within a given period. Subsequently, the results of the sampling, the methods of which will be settled in detail, will indicate whether the values fixed nationally are actually respected; if they are not, Member States will have to take appropriate measures.

LEAD CONTENT OF PETROL

The Council agreed to the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the composition of petrol with regard to the lead content.

This Directive fixes, with effect from 1 January 1981, the maximum permitted lead compound content of petrol placed on the market at 0.40 g/l. Member States may set a limit lower than 0.40 g/l but not lower than 0.15 g/l.

However, provision is made for derogations:

- in the case of Ireland, which is authorized to place on the market petrol with a lead content greater than 0.40 g/l, without however exceeding the current figure of 0.64 g/l, for a five-year period commencing on 1 January 1981;
- in the event of a sudden change in the supply of crude oil or petroleum products making it difficult for the Member States to apply the limits set in the Directive. Any Member State which has recourse to this derogation will have to inform the Commission.

The Directive furthermore provides that Member States shall supply the Commission with information on:

- developments as regards systems to reduce the emission of lead and of any polluting substitutes in exhaust gases;
- developments in the concentration of lead and polluting substitutes in the atmosphere of European cities and their effect on public health;
- the effects on energy policy of the various possible ways of reducing pollution caused by lead emission in exhaust gases.

The Commission will make a report on the information obtained and, in the light of the data collected, will make suitable proposals where Community policy on the composition of petrol has to be supplemented as a result.

BIRD CONSERVATION

Following a wide-ranging discussion of the proposal for a Directive on bird conservation, there was broad agreement within the Council on almost all the points which remained to be considered after the Council's proceedings on 12 December 1977.

Having nevertheless established that a final period of time for thought might lead to a solution to the few outstanding problems - in particular that posed by the list of species for which marketing may be permitted - the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the proposal further in an attempt to reach a decision in three weeks' time.

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NOTE BIO (78) 194 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AU DIRECTEUR GENERAL DG I ET A M.
OPITZ DG VIII

CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT (CHEVALLARD)

LE CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT QUI S'OUVRIRA LE MARDI 30 A 10 H A BRUXELLES SE PRESENTE COME UN CONSEIL BIEN REMPLI ET AVEC DES CHANCES DE PROGRES IMPORTANTS DANS LA POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT.

L'ORDRE DU JOUR S'ETABLIIT COMME SUIT:
AEROSOL DANS L'ENVIRONNEMENT

LE CONSEIL ADOPTERA UNE RESOLUTION PAR LAQUELLE LES ETATS MEMBRES ET LA COMMISSION S'ENGAGENT A INTENSIFIER LES RECHERCHES SUR LES EFFETS DES FLUOROCARBONES SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT. L'INDUSTRIE ET LES UTILISATEURS SONT INCOURAGES A ELIMINER TOUTE FUIITE DE CE PRODUIT ET EN PARTICULIER L'INDUSTRIE DEVRAIT PREVENIR TOUTE AUGMENTATION DE LA CAPACITE DE PRODUCTION DES PRODUITS.

CONSERVATION DES OISEAUX

AU CONSEIL DE DECEMBRE 1977 IL Y A EU UN ACCORD SUR LA STRUCTURE GENERALE DE LA DIRECTIVE VISANT A ASSURER UNE MEILLEURE CONSERVATION DES OISEAUX. VOUS VOUS RAPPELEZ QU'IL ETAIT PREVU L'INTERDICTION DE LA CHASSE POUR TOUTE UNE SERIE D'OISEAUX ET POUR LES OISEAUX DONT LA CHASSE ETAIT AUTORISEE CERTAINES MOYENS DE CHASSE COME LE FILET, ETC., ETAIENT DESORMAIS INTERDITS. LE SEUL POINT DE SUBSTANCE ENCORE A REGLER CONCERNE LA QUESTION DE SAVOIR SI TOUTES LES OISEAUX CHASSABLES SONT EGALEMENT COMMERCIALISABLES EN PARTICULIER LA DELEGATION FRANCAISE SOUHAITE DE LIMITER AU MAXIMUM LA COMMERCIALISATION DES OISEAUX CHASSABLES.

QUALITE REQUISE DES EAUX DOUCES APRES A LA VIE DES POISSONS

L'OBJECTIF DE LA DIRECTIVE EST LA PROTECTION OU L'AMELIORATION DES EAUX DOUCES QUI PERMETTENT OU QUI POURRAIENT PERMETTRE, DANS CERTAINES CONDITIONS, LA VIE DES POISSONS. A CET EFFET, LES ETATS MEMBRES DESIGNENT LES EAUX AUXQUELLE S'APPLIQUE LA DIRECTIVE, ET FIXENT POUR CES EAUX, EN CE QUI CONCERNE LA PLUPART DES PARAMETRES DES VALEURS LIMITEES. EN FIXANT LES VALEURS AU PLAN NATIONAL, LES ETATS MEMBRES DEVRONT RESPECTER LES VALEURS IMPERATIFS ET S'EFFORCER DE RESPECTER LES VALEURS "GUIDE" FIGURANT DANS L'ANNEXE 1 A LA DIRECTIVE.

LA SEULE DIFFICULTE D'UN ACCORD DE PRINCIPE SUR LA STRUCTURE DE LA DIRECTIVE CONCERNE LA DEFINITION DE CERTAINS PARAMETRES COMME LA TEMPERATURE ET L'OXYGENE DISSOUD.

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■■■■■TENEUR EN PLOMB DANS L'ESSENCE

 CETTE DIRECTIVE VISE A HARMONISER LA TENEUR MAXIMALE DE PLOMB ADMISE DANS L'ESSENCE. UN ACCORD S'EST DESORMAIS REALISE POUR ADMETTRE 0,4 GR. DE PLOMB PAR LITRE DANS L'ESSENCE, ETANT BIEN ENTENDU QUE LES ETATS MEMBRES PEUVENT EXIGER POUR LEUR TERRITOIRE DES TENEURS DE PLOMB INFERIEUR.

CETTE TENEUR CONSTITUE UNE AMELIORATION CONSIDERABLES PAR RAPPORT A LA SITUATION ACTUELLE DANS CERTAINS PAYS. LE SEUL POINT IMPORTANT A REGLER CONCERNE LA FIXATION EVENTUELLE DES VALEURS LIMITEES INFERIEURES QUE LES ETATS MEMBRES SERAIENT LIBRES D'APPLIQUER.

POLLUTION DE LA MER PAR LE TRANSPORT DES HYDROCARBURES

 VOUS VOUS RAPPELEZ LE TRAIN DES MESURES PROPOSEES PAR LA COMMISSION IL Y A UN MOIS (VOIR P-53). APRES LES TRAVAUX INTENSIFS AU SEIN DU CONSEIL, CE DERNIER EST APPELE A DONNER SON ACCORD DE PRINCIPE SUR LE PROGRAMME D'ACTION EN MATIERE DE CONTROLE ET DE REDUCTION DE LA POLLUTION CAUSEE PAR LE DEVERSEMENT D'HYDROCARBURES EN MER, SUR L'ADOPTION DE LA COMMUNAUTE DE L'ACCORD DE BONN DE JUIN 1969 CONCERNANT LA COOPERATION EN MATIERE DE LUTTE CONTRE LA POLLUTION DES EAUX DANS LA MER DU NORD PAR LES HYDROCARBURES ET SUR LA CONCLUSION PAR LA COMMUNAUTE DU PROTOCOLE A LA CONVENTION DE BARCELON CONCERNANT LA COOPERATION EN MATIERE DE LUTTE CONTRE LA POLLUTION PAR LES HYDROCARBURES.

OUVERTURE DES NEGOCIATION AVEC LES U.S.A. SUR LES PROBLEMES POSES PAR LE TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT.

 LA COMMISSION DEMANDE AU CONSEIL D'OUVRIR DES NEGOCIATIONS AVEC LES ETATS UNIS POUR UN ACCORD SUR L'APPLICATION, D'UNE PART, DU 'TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT' AUX PRODUITS CHIMIQUES EN PROVENANCE DE LA COMMUNAUTE ET, D'AUTRE PART, DE LA LEGISLATION COMMUNAUTAIRE CONCERNEE AUX PRODUITS CHIMIQUES EN PROVENANCE DES ETATS UNIS.

POUR VOUS SITUER L'IMPORTANCE DE LA QUESTION ON PEUT SOULIGNER QUE EN 1975 SUR UNE EXPORTATION TOTALE DES SUBSTANCES CHIMIQUES DE 4912 MILLIONS DE DOLLARS LA COMMUNAUTE A EXPORTE 559 MILLIONS DE DOLLARS DANS LES ETATS UNIS. LA SEULE QUESTION A TRANCHER PAR LE CONSEIL CONCERNE LES MODALITES DES CONSULTATIONS DES REPRESENTANTS DES ETATS MEMBRES DE LA PART DE LA COMMISSION PENDANT LA DUREE DES NEGOCIATIONS.

~~TRAVAUX EN MATIERE DE POLLUTION DE L'AIR PAR L'ANHYDRIDE SULFUREUX ET LES PARTICULES EN SUSPENSION.~~

~~LE CONSEIL EST SAISI D'UN RAPPORT SUR L'ETAT DES TRAVAUX EN CE QUI CONCERNE LA POLLUTION DE L'AIR PAR L'ANHYDRIDE SULFUREUX ET LES PARTICULES EN SUSPENSION.~~

~~LA REGLEMENTATION PROPOSEE PREVOIT LE RESPECT DANS L'ENSEMBLE////~~

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TRAVAUX EN MATIERE DE POLLUTION DE L'AIR DE L'ANHYDRIDE SULFUREUX

ET LES PARTICULES EN SUSPENSION

LE CONSEIL EST SAISI D'UN RAPPORT SUR L'ETAT DES TRAVAUX EN CE
QUI CONCERNE LA POLLUTION DE L'AIR PAR L'ANHYDRIDE SULFUREUX
ET LES PARTICULES EN SUSPENSION.

LA REGLEMENTATION PROPOSEE PREVOIT LE RESPECT DANS L'ENSEMBLE
DES TERRITOIRES DES ETATS MEMBRES DES VALEURS LIMITEES RELATIVES
AUX CONCENTRATIONS D'ANHYDRIDE SULFUREUX ET LES PARTICULES EN
SUSPENSION.

DIFFERENTES QUESTIONS RESTENT A TRANCHER ET L'ON S'ATTEND QUE LE
CONSEIL DEGAGE CERTAINES ORIENTATIONS PERMETTANT LE PROGRES
ULTERIEUR DES TRAVAUX.

CES QUESTIONS CONCERNENT D'UNE PART LES VALEURS CHIFFREES RELA-
TIVES AUX CONCENTRATIONS DE POLLUANTS A NE PAS DEPASSER.

UN AUTRE PROBLEME EST DE SAVOIR S'IL FAUT PREVOIR POUR CERTAINES
ZONES LA FIXATION DES VALEURS CHIFFREES PLUS SEVERES.

DECLARATION DU MINISTRE FRANCAIS DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT RELATIVE A

L'APPROFONDISSEMENT DE LA POLITIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE DE L'ENVIRONNE-

MENT

ATTENTION BIEN LIRE DANS LE PARAGRAPHE "POLLUTION DE LA MER PAR
LE TRANSPORT DES HYDROCARBURES" "SUR L'ADHESION DE LA COMMUNAU-
TE A L'ACCORD DE BONN" (ET NON PAS "SUR L'ADOPTION")

AMITIES
M. SANTARELLI COMEUR
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NOTE BIO 194 - SUITE 1 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AU DIRECTEUR GENERAL DG I ET
M. OPITZ DG VIII

CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT (CHEVALLARD)

A 18 HEURES, LA SITUATION SE PRESENTE COMME SUIT :

■- AEROSOLS DANS L'ENVIRONNEMENT ■: LE CONSEIL A ADOPTE LA
RECOMMANDATION.

■-TENEUR EN PLOMB DANS L'ESSENCE : LE CONSEIL A REALISE UN
ACCORD SUR LE TEXTE DE LA DIRECTIVE.

■- POLLUTION PROVOQUEE PAR LE TRANSPORT DES HYDROCARBURES :
LE CONSEIL A DONNE SON ACCORD DE PRINCIPE AU PROGRAMME D'ACTION
EN LA MATIERE, PROPOSE PAR LA COMMISSION. IL A EGALEMENT
EXPOSE SON ORIENTATION FAVORABLE A L'ADHESION DE LA COMMUNAUTE
A LA CONVENTION DE BONN ET AU PROTOCOLE A LA CONVENTION DE
BARCELONE. LA COMMISSION EST CHARGEE DE ■■■■ PRESENTER LES
PROPOSITIONS APPROPRIEES. LE CONSEIL AFFAIRES GENERALES EST
CHARGE DE FORMALISER LES DECISIONS EN LA MATIERE.

DEUX GROUPES DE TRAVAIL SONT ACTUELLEMENT A L'OEUVRE POUR
RAPPROCHER LES POSITIONS EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES DIRECTIVES
SUR LA CONSERVATION DES OISEAUX ET LES EAUX PISCICOLES.

A SUIVRE
AMITIES
E. PERLOT

P.S. POUR DES RAISONS TECHNIQUES, NOUS NE POUVONS PAS GARANTIR
LA TRANSMISSION RAPIDE DE CE MESSAGE TELEX. EN EFFET, NOS
SERVICES TELEX NOUS SIGNALENT UN IMPORTANT RETARD DANS
L'ENVOI DES MESSAGES TELEX.

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CHEVALLARD GPP

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