

PRESS RELEASE

8279/80 (Presse 99)

649th Council meeting

- Environment -

Luxembourg, 30 June and 1 July 1980

President: M. Vincenzo BALZAMO
Minister for Scientific Research
of the Italian Republic

1998

1999

2000

2001

2002

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr L. GINJAAR

Minister for Health and the
Environment

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tom KING

Minister of State,
Department of the Environment

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

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SULPHUR DIOXIDE AND SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER

Confirming the agreement given in principle on 17 December 1979, the Council gave its agreement ⁽¹⁾ to a Directive on air quality limit values and guide values for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates.

The Member States will adopt the measures necessary to ensure compliance with the air quality standards laid down by the Directive as from 1 April 1983. At the same time, they will draw up binding measures to be applied in the event of certain limit values being exceeded for concentrations of SO₂ and suspended particulates in the atmosphere.

The enacting terms of the Directive introduce a common procedure for the exchange of information on atmospheric pollution and establish reference methods for the analysis of pollutants. Finally, they are designed to prevent a deterioration in the quality of the air in less polluted regions by encouraging compliance with standards, wherever possible by means of a reduction in emissions and not by a more widespread dispersion of pollutants in the atmosphere.

In conclusion, the Council agreed on a Resolution on trans-boundary air pollution by sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates, to the effect that the Member States will endeavour, in accordance with the objectives of the abovementioned Directive and taking due account of the facts and problems involved, to limit and as far as possible gradually reduce and prevent transboundary air pollution by sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates.

⁽¹⁾ Subject to any request for consultations by the Greek delegation.

QUALITY OF WATER INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

In confirmation of its agreement in principle of 19 December 1978, the Council recorded its agreement ⁽¹⁾ on the proposal for a Directive relating to the quality of water intended for human consumption.

The Directive lays down the maximum admissible concentrations for organoleptic, physico-chemical and microbiological values and for undesirable and toxic substances for all water supplied for consumption or used in food production undertakings except natural mineral waters and medicinal waters ⁽²⁾. The Member States may lay down even more stringent values on the basis of the recommended "guide" values.

As regards the hardness of water supplied for human consumption and having been softened, minimum required values are laid down in the Directive with respect to total hardness, hydrogen ion concentration, alkalinity and dissolved oxygen. The Directive also makes provision for the comparability of the reference methods of analysis and the ensuing results.

The Member States have two years from notification within which to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions to comply with the Directive so as to ensure that the quality of water intended for human consumption meets the requirements of the Directive within five years of its notification.

⁽¹⁾ Subject to any request for consultation by the Greek delegation.

⁽²⁾ A Directive on these products is currently being approved.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME ON THE ENVIRONMENT

On the basis of a Commission document, the Council held a wide-ranging discussion on the progress and evaluation of work completed under the second action programme (1977-1981) on the environment.

Each delegation commented in exhaustive detail on the Commission document and stressed the importance attached to certain sections of it, particularly various specific environmental measures, at both national and Community level. In this context, the Council noted statements by the various Member States, in particular that by the United Kingdom on lead pollution, that by the Netherlands on transboundary pollution and that by France on marine pollution caused by hydrocarbons. The Commission also expressed the importance which it attached to the Community's role at the regional conference due to be convened, at France's instigation, to discuss questions in connection with measures to combat pollution by hydrocarbons transported by sea.

The Council also went on to discuss the Commission communication on rational land use and its place in the Community environment policy.

The discussion closed with a summing up by the Presidency, following the statement by the Commission that it would be submitting appropriate proposals in due course, in the light of the comments expressed at the meeting.

DISCHARGES OF ALDRIN, DIELDRIN AND ENDRIN INTO THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

The Council held an exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive on the limit values for discharges of aldrin, dieldrin and endrin into the aquatic environment and on the proposal regarding the quality objectives required for that environment.

This discussion gave delegations an opportunity to elaborate further on their respective positions, in particular with respect to certain questions concerning quality objectives and to the arrangements applicable to new plant, that is plant becoming operational after the date of notification of the Directive.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its work on this matter in the light of today's discussions so that a decision could be taken in the very near future.

IMPORTS OF WHALE PRODUCTS

On the basis of an oral report from the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Council was notified of progress on the proposal for a Regulation on common rules for imports of whale products and confirmed its favourable view on the substance of this proposal.

The common rules lay down that no import licences are to be issued for products to be used for commercial purposes. Licences will be issued only for imports of these products for other purposes.

The Commission made it clear that substitutes were available for all products in question and abandoning whale products would therefore not cause insuperable problems for industry, provided a reasonable transitional period were allowed. In this connection, the Commission proposed that the new rules enter into force on 1 January 1982.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete its examination of the problems outstanding, particularly those of a technical nature, so that the proposal could be formally adopted on receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

The Council discussed chlorofluorocarbons in the environment on the basis of a Commission communication on the subject prepared pursuant to the Council Decision of December 1979.

This discussion enabled delegations to air their preoccupations on the subject and to report on the measures which had been taken at national level. Special attention was paid to the following: the effects of chlorofluorocarbons on atmospheric ozone, the implications of ozone depletion for man and the environment, the production and use of CFC 11 and 12, in particular for aerosols, and the socio-economic aspects of CFC 11 and 12 substitution.

In conclusion, the Council agreed to ask the Commission to keep a close watch on developments in the situation particularly in the scientific sphere and to make the proposals provided for in the Decision of December 1979.

MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARDS OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

Most of this meeting was devoted to an intensive discussion of the proposal for a Directive on the major accident hazards of certain industrial activities and significant progress was made on almost the whole Directive.

The text is concerned with the prevention of major accidents which might result from certain industrial activities and with the limitation of their consequences for man and the environment; it is directed in particular towards the approximation of the measures taken by Member States in this field.

The Directive introduces inter alia an obligation on the manufacturer to notify certain substances and plant and any major accident hazards in order that the hazards may be better established and accidents avoided by ensuring improved information for workers in the industrial establishments in question and for the national and Community authorities, both with a view to the prevention of accidents and to control of the situation should an accident happen.

Since its discussion had enabled the Council to identify the salient features on which there was consensus with respect both to the general provisions and to the technical Annexes of the Directive, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to give further detailed study to the questions still outstanding with a view to bringing delegations' positions closer together so that the Council could take a decision on the matter at its next meeting on the environment.

VARIOUS DECISIONS

Fisheries policy

The Council adopted Regulations in the official languages of the Community:

- laying down for 1980 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Islands;
- laying down certain measures for the conservation and management during 1980 of common fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Spain;
- laying down for 1980 certain measures for the conservation and management of common fishery resources off the West Greenland coast applicable to vessels flying the flag of Canada or under charter to companies registered in Canada.

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted Regulations in the official languages of the Community:

- fixing, for the 1980 harvest, the norm and intervention prices, the premiums granted to purchasers of leaf tobacco, the derived intervention prices for baled tobacco and the reference qualities;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 727/70 on the common organization of the market in raw tobacco;
- fixing the amounts of aid for fibre flax and hemp for the 1980/1981 marketing year;
- fixing for the 1980/1981 marketing year:
 - = the guide price for linseed;
 - = the amount of aid for cotton seed;
 - = the guide price and the minimum price for castor seed;
 - = the guide price and the minimum price for soya beans;

- adopting general rules concerning special measures for soya beans harvested in 1980;
- laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of aid to producers for the 1979 harvest;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1410/76 on the common organization of the market in rice;
- fixing cereals prices for the 1980/1981 marketing year;
- fixing rice prices for the 1980/1981 marketing year;
- laying down the minimum requirements for common wheat for bread-making;
- fixing, for the 1980/1981 marketing year, the monthly price increases for cereals, wheat and rye flour and wheat groats and meal;
- fixing, for the 1980/1981 marketing year, the monthly price increases for paddy rice and husked rice;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2742/75 on production refunds in the cereals and rice sectors;
- on the levy reduction applicable to certain feed grain imports into Italy;
- fixing the list of Community regions which qualify for aid in respect of durum wheat and fixing the amount of such aid for the 1980/1981 marketing year.

Other decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive amending for the seventh time Directive 73/241/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and Sweden in respect of certain horticultural products negotiated under Article XXVIII of the GATT.

Finally, the Council adopted the directives to the Commission for the negotiation of an agreement for co-operation between the EAEC and Spain in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion.

Appointment

The Council appointed Mr André DUBOIS Director-General of Directorate-General E (External Relations and relations with Associated States) of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities.

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NOTE BIO (80) 273 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AUX ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT DU 30 JUIN 1980 (CHEVALLARD)

CE CONSEIL QUI DEBUTE A 11HEURES AVEC UN ORDRE DU JOUR CHARGE
POURRAIT DEBOUCHER SUR DES DECISIONS CONCRETES QUI MARQUERAIENT
DES PROGRES IMPORTANTS DE LA POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE DE
L'ENVIRONNEMENT.

TROIS DIRECTIVES POURRAIENT EN EFFET ETRE ADOPTEES:
- CELLE CONCERNANT LES NORMES DE PROTECTION POUR L'ANYDRIDE
SULFUREUX ET LES PARTICULES EN SUSPENSION QUI DISCIPLINE
DANS UN SENS RESTRICTIF LES EMISSIONS DE CES PRODUITS
DANS L'ATMOSPHERE
- LA QUALITE DES EAUX DESTINEES A LA CONSOMMATION HUMAINE
QUI REGLEMENTE D'UNE FACON ANALYTIQUE LES PROPRIETES QUE
DOIVENT AVOIR LES EAUX POTABLES
- LES RISQUES D'ACCIDENTS MAJEURS DE CERTAINES ACTIVITES
INDUSTRIELLES QUI INSTITUTE UNE SERIE DE
PRECAUTIONS ET DE CONTROLES DANS LE CAS D'INDUSTRIES DANGE-
REUSES.

LE CONSEIL EXAMINERA ENSUITE UNE SERIE DE DEMANDES QUI
EMPECHENT LES PROGRES DANS LA MISE AU POINT D'UNE
DIRECTIVE VISANT A REDUIRE LA POLLUTION AQUATIQUE
DUE A 3 PESTICIDES.

LE CONSEIL EST ENCORE SAISI D'UN RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION AU
SUJET DE L'UTILISATION DES AEROSOLS. CE RAPPORT EXAMINE LES
DONNEES SCIENTIFIQUES ET ECONOMIQUES CONCERNANT LES AEROSOLS
A LA SUITE DE LA DECISION PRISE LE 17 DECEMBRE DERNIER PREVOYANT
LA REDUCTION D'AU MOINS LE 30 % D'ICI LE 31.12.81 DANS
L'UTILISATION DES GAS POUR LE REMPLISSAGE D'AEROSOLS.

LE CONSEIL, QUI POURRAIT SE PROLONGER LEMATIN DU 1ER JUILLET,
AURA EGALEMENT UN ECHANGE DE VUES D'ORIENTATION A LA LUMIERE
DES COMMUNICATIONS DE LA COMMISSION RESPECTIVEMENT SUR L'EVA-
LUATION DES TRAVAUX REALISES PAR LA COMMUNAUTE EN MATIERE
D'ENVIRONNEMENT ET L'UTILISATION RATIONNELLE DES SOLS.

AMITIES,
ENZO PERLOT COMEUR
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ENZO PERLOT


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NOTE BIO (80) 273 (SUITE 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AUX ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

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CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT (CHEVALLARD)

LE CONSEIL QUI S'EST OUVERT A 11 HEURES A ADOPTE LES DEUX
DIRECTIVES CONCERNANT LES NORMES DE PROTECTION POUR L'ANYDRIDE
SULFUREUX ET LES PARTICULES EN SUSPENSION ET LA QUALITE DES ■■■■
EAUX DESTINEES A LA CONSOMMATION HUMAINE.

LES FICHES SUR CES DEUX SUJETS ■ VOUS SERONT ENVOYEEES.

LES TRAVAUX DU CONSEIL SE POURSUIVENT SUR LA DIRECTIVE SEVESO.

AMITIEES,

■■ ENZO PERLOT COME ■UR
(DICTEE PAR TELEPHONE DE LUXEMBOURG)

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NOTE BIO (80) 273 (SUITE 2 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AUX ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT (CHEVALLARD)

LE CONSEIL S'EST SEPARÉ A 5 HEURES DU MATIN DU MARDI 1ER JUILLET
APRES AVOIR CONSACRÉ ENVIRON 12 HEURES A UNE NEGOCIATION
SERREE EN VUE DE L'ADOPTION DE LA DIRECTIVE SUR LES RISQUES
D'ACCIDENTS MAJEURS.

DES PROGRES IMPORTANTS ONT ÉTÉ RÉALISÉS, MAIS SUR UNE QUESTION
DE PRINCIPE IMPORTANTE LES DIVERGENCES N'ONT PAS PU ÊTRE
SURMONTÉES MALGRÉS LES EFFORTS DE LA COMMISSION ET DE LA
PRESIDENCE.

IL S'AGIT DE LA QUESTION DE L'INFORMATION TRANSFRONTIÈRE. DANS
LE TEXTE SUR LA TABLE DU CONSEIL IL ÉTAIT PRÉVU
QUE LES INFORMATIONS AUX PERSONNES SUSCEPTIBLES D'ÊTRE
AFFECTÉES PAR UN ACCIDENT MAJEUR SOIENT ÉGALEMENT COMMUNIQUÉES
À UN AUTRE ÉTAT MEMBRE DANS LE CAS OÙ CET ACCIDENT POURRAIT
AVOIR DES CONSÉQUENCES SUR LE TERRITOIRE DE CET ÉTAT. HUIT ÉTATS
HUIT MEMBRES ET LA COMMISSION AURAIENT PU RETENIR
CE PRINCIPE QUI A ÉTÉ PAR CONTRE REPOUSSE PAR LA FRANCE.
CET ÉTAT MAINTIENNE QUE TOUTE INFORMATION SUR DES RISQUES
D'ACCIDENTS TRANSFRONTIÈRES DOIT ÊTRE
RÉGLÉE DANS UN CADRE DE RELATIONS BILATÉRALES
ET NON PAS PAR DES NORMES CONTRAIGNANTES AU NIVEAU COMMUNAUTAIRE.

LE COMITÉ DES REPRÉSENTANTS PERMANENTS A ÉTÉ CHARGÉ DE
POURSUIVRE LES TRAVAUX SUR CETTE QUESTION.

LE CONSEIL A EU ÉGALEMENT UN DÉBAT SUR LA POLITIQUE GÉNÉRALE
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT. M. NATALI A SOULIGNÉ LES IMPORTANTS PROGRES ACCOMPLIS CES DERNIÈRES ANNÉES EN
MATIÈRE DE POLITIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT: ENVI-
RON 60 MESURES LÉGISLATIVES ONT ÉTÉ ADOPTÉES PAR LA
COMMUNAUTÉ DEPUIS 1977. POUR M. NATALI IL FAUT MAINTENANT COM-
PLÉTER L'ACTION NORMATIVE DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ PAR LA MISE EN PLA-
CE DE NOUVEAUX INSTRUMENTS D'ACTION ET NOTAMMENT PAR DES
MOYENS FINANCIERS TELS QUE UN FOND COMMUNAUTAIRE POUR L'AMÉ-
LIORATION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT.

À L'ISSUE DE CE DÉBAT DE CARACTÈRE GÉNÉRAL LA PRÉSIDENCE A TIRÉ
CERTAINES CONCLUSIONS QUI ONT TRAIT AUX INITIATIVES À PRENDRE
PAR LA COMMISSION DANS LES PROCHES AVENIR.

UN BREF ÉCHANGE DE VUES A EU LIEU SUR LE PROBLÈME DES CHLORO-
FLUOROCARBONES DANS L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LEUR UTILISATION//

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CHEVALLARD/SG PORTE-PAROLE BERL 1/16 2207/3170 1.VII.80

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ENZO FERLOT



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NOTAMMENT DANS LES AEROSOLS. TOUTES LES DELEGATIONS ONT
EXPRIME LEUR INQUIETUDE A LA LUMIERE DES DERNIERES DONNEES
SCIENTIFIQUES QUANT AU DANGER DE CES GAS POUR L'ENVIRONNE-
MENT. LA COMMISSION A ETE CHARGE DE PRESENTER DEUX
PROPOSITIONS DANS LA LIGNE DU PROGRAMME QUI AVAIT ETE
CONVENU AU MOIS DE DECEMBRE DERNIER.

LE CONSEIL S'EST ENFIN PENNCHÉ SUR LA PROTECTION DES BALEINES
ET NOTAMMENT SUR LE REGLEMENT PROPOSE PAR LA COMMISSION
VISANT A INTERDIRE L'IMPORTATION DE PRODUITS ISSUS DES BALEINES.
LE CONSEIL A EXPRIME UN ORIENTATION FAVORABLE A CE REGLEMENT
EN CHARGEANT CES INSTANCES TECHNIQUES DE L'ARRETER DANS
LES MEILLEURS DELAIS.

AMITIES,
ENZO PERLNOT COMEUR
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