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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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## PRESS RELEASE

5365/84 (Presse 38)

912th meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Brussels, 1 March 1984

President: Mrs Huguette BOUCHARDEAU,  
State Secretary attached to the Prime Minister,  
with responsibility for the Environment  
and the quality of life,  
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Firmin AERTS  
State Secretary for Public  
Health and the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Mogens BUNDGAARD-NIELSEN  
State Secretary,  
Ministry of the Environment

Germany:

Mr Franz KROPPESTEDT  
State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of the Interior

Greece:

Mr Adonios TRITSIS  
Minister for Regional Planning  
and the Environment

France:

Mrs Huguette BOUCHARDEAU  
State Secretary attached to the  
Prime Minister, with responsi-  
bility for the Environment and  
the quality of life

Ireland:

Mr Liam KAVANAGH  
Minister for the Environment  
Mr Fergus O'BRIEN  
Minister of State,  
Department of the Environment

Italy:

Mr Alfredo BIONDI  
Minister for Ecology

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean FEYDER  
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr P. WINSEMIUS  
Minister for Housing, Regional  
Planning and the Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr William WALDEGRAVE  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
of State  
Department of the Environment

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES  
Member

TRANSFRONTIER SHIPMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Council made another thorough examination of the proposal for a Regulation on the supervision and control of the transfrontier shipment of hazardous waste.

The Council registered some progress, particularly as regards the notification procedures, the conditions for transporting waste and the responsibility of the producer. However, there remain problems concerning the powers of the exporting State and waste intended for recycling.

At the close of the discussion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings with a view to reaching a positive conclusion on the whole of this important issue if possible before the Council meeting in June.

COMBATING AIR POLLUTION FROM INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

The Council signified its agreement to a Directive on the combating of air pollution from industrial plants. This is the first general Directive designed to combat air pollution.

It stipulates that Member States must make the operation of the industrial plants covered by the Directive subject to prior authorization. Authorizations may be issued only when the competent authority is satisfied, inter alia, that:

- all appropriate preventive measures, including the application of the best available technology, have been taken;
- the operation of the plant will not cause harmful air pollution such as to endanger human health or damage living resources and ecosystems.

The types of industrial plant covered by the Directive are basically those connected with energy, metallurgy, the progressing of non-metallic mineral products, waste disposal and certain chemical industries.

In the case of existing plant in the sectors of industry referred to above, Member States will apply policies and strategies for their gradual adaptation to the best available technology.

The Directive also stipulates that the Council will, if necessary at Community level, fix emission limit values based on the best available technology which do not entail excessive costs and which take account of the nature, quantity and harmfulness of the emissions in question.

ACTION BY THE COMMUNITY RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT (ACE)

The Council signified its agreement to a Regulation concerning the financing of Community action relating to the environment from the general budget of the Communities.

This Regulation provides for a sum of 13 MECU over a period of three years for:

- demonstration projects aimed at developing new "clean" technologies, i.e. technologies which cause little or no pollution and may also be more economical of natural resources,
- demonstration projects aimed at developing new techniques and measuring methods,
- projects providing an incentive and aimed at contributing towards the maintenance or re-establishment of seriously threatened biotopes which are the habitat of endangered species and are of particular importance to the Community, under Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds.

Community financial support must not exceed 30% of the cost of the projects referred to in the first indent, 30% of the cost of the projects referred to in the second indent, and 50% of the cost of the projects referred to in the third indent.

The appropriations will be managed by the Commission in the framework of an Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the Member States.

These appropriations may be granted to the natural persons, or the legal persons constituted in accordance with the laws in force in the Member States, who are responsible for a project.

The benefits granted by the Community must not affect conditions of competition in a manner incompatible with the provisions of the Treaty.

The Commission will submit an annual report on the implementation of the Regulation to the European Parliament and the Council.

BARCELONA CONVENTION: MEDITERRANEAN SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

The Council adopted a Decision on the conclusion, on the behalf of the Community, of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention concerning Mediterranean specially protected areas.

Pursuant to that Protocol, signed in Geneva on 2/3 April 1982, the Contracting Parties - Mediterranean States - undertake to take all appropriate measures with a view to protecting those marine areas which are important for the safeguard of the natural resources, sites and the cultural heritage in the region.

They will, to the extent possible, establish protected areas and endeavour to undertake the action necessary in order to protect those areas and, as appropriate, restore them, as rapidly as possible.

Such areas will be established in order to safeguard in particular:

- (a) - sites of biological and ecological value;
  - the genetic diversity of species;
  - representative types of ecosystems;
- (b) sites of particular importance because of their scientific, aesthetic, historical, archaeological, cultural or educational interest.

Among other objectives the Protocol aims, in close co-operation with the parties concerned, to encourage research activities and information for the public on the protected areas.





MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decision concerning the environment

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Directive on limit values and quality objectives for mercury discharges by sectors other than the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry (see press release 11446/83 (Presse 228) of 16.XII.83 - p. 3).

Research

Further to the agreement reached in the Research Council on 28 February 1984, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Decision revising the sectoral R & D programme in the field of environment (environmental protection and climatology) - indirect and concerted actions (1981-1985) adopted by Decision 81/213/EEC (see press release 5287/84 (Presse 34) of 28.II.84 - p. 17).

Agriculture

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Regulation on suspension of aids for investments in the field of dairy production.

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PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 6 March 1984

5365/84 (Presse 38) COR 1

C O R R I G E N D U M

to Press Release  
5365/84 (Presse 38)

- Environment -  
of 1 March 1984

Page I, "Other decision concerning the environment"

Since the Directive on limit values and quality objectives for mercury discharges by sectors other than the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry was not adopted this passage should be deleted.



Bruxelles 29 fevrier 1984  
Note BIO (84) 96 aux Bureaux Nationaux  
c.c. aux membres du Groupe du Porte Parole

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PREPARATION CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT 1. 3. 84 (O. von Schwerin)

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A l'O.J. les memes points non resolus le 16. 12,; a savoir:

1. Controle des transports transfrontaliers de dechets dangereux.  
P.M. Proposition de directive modifiee en reglement par la Commission apres l'incident des 41 futs de dioxine de Seveso. Le Conseil s'etait engage en juin 1983 a adoption avant fin 83.  
Problemes:- la plupart des E.M. preferent directive;  
- d'autres veulent regler le probleme en plusieurs etapes: d'abord procedure (notification, document d'accompagnement), puis problemes plus compliques (responsabilite du producteur, assurance, sanctions etc.); inacceptable pour la Commission, qui s'est engagee pour une proposition integrale devant P. E.  
- Reserves allemandes: opposition pays d'expedition; possibilite d'aller plus loin en legislation nationale.

2. Pollution atmospherique par installation industrielle: Directive-cadre d'avril 83; progres considerables, adoption possible.  
Seule probleme majeur: fixation de valeurs limitees d'emissions ou bien valeurs d'orientation non obligatoires (opposition Commission).

3. Action communautaires pour l'environnement (Reglement ACE)  
P.M. Soutien financier (20 - 50 %) pour certains projets de demonstration (technologies "propres", economies de ressources naturelles)  
Opposition RFA, DK (plus restrictif) contre GR, IT, IRL  
Finance: proposition Commission 27,5 MECU pour 3 ans  
Budget 84: 6,5 MECU.

4. Convention Barcelone sur les zones specialement protegees en Mediterranee.  
Adoption probable.

5. Revision Programme R et D.  
Reduction de la proposition Commission 12,5 a 7,3 MECU (notamment pluies acides et dechets toxiques).  
Accord au Conseil recherche de hier. Adoption.

Amities,  
P. Cerf, COMEUR





Bruxelles, le 2 mars 1984.

Note BIO (84) 96 (suite 1 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
cc.AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE PAROLE

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CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT 1. 3. 84 (O. von Schwerin)  
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Les resultats du Conseil qui s'est termine vers 22H30 etaient plus positifs qu'attendus. En effet, a part la directive sur le controle des transports frontaliers des dechets dangereux, tous les autres points a l'ordre du jour ont ete regles:

1. La directive sur la pollution atmospherique par installations industrielles, directive-cadre proposee par la Commission en avril 83 a ete adoptee. Ceci marque un pas important vers une politique communautaire en matiere de pollution de l'air causee par l'industrie. Le probleme essentiel du cote britannique d'accepter des normes d'emissions obligatoires a pu etre regle dans le sens de la proposition de la Commission. D'autre part, la mise en vigueur a ete prolongee jusqu'au debut 1987 pour rencontrer les preoccupations britanniques et irlandaises.

2. Le reglement ACE, premiere action financiere communautaire en matiere d'environnement a egalement ete adopte. L'enveloppe financiere pour une periode de 3 ans a ete fixee a 13 MECU ce qui correspond a peine a la moitie de la proposition de la Commission (27,5) mais se situe au-dessus de la position originale allemande et anglaise (10 MECU). Les actions a soutenir sont notamment dans les domaines des technologies propres et economiques des ressources naturelles.

3. Le programme R et D dans l'environnement pour 84/85 a ete confirme apres decision du Conseil de Recherche du 28. 2. avec une somme de 7,3 MECU, notamment en faveur de la recherche sur pluies acides et dechets toxiques. Enfin le protocole sur la Convention de Barcelone concernant les zones specialement protegees en Mediterranee a ete adopte.

4. Quant au plat de resistance de ce Conseil, la directive "transport frontier des dechets" (probleme controversé depuis l'affaire de dioxine de Seveso), les problemes se posent notamment parce que la delegation allemande veut sauvegarder une legislation nationale plus rigoureuse et meme le droit de refuser au producteur l'exportation des dechets. Neanmoins, certains progres ont ete enregistres concernant le principe de la responsabilite du producteur ainsi que la procedure de notification (selon laquelle les pays expedites ou de transit pourraient non seulement faire des observations mais meme refuser sous certaines conditions).

Il y a donc un certain espoir que ces projets vivement attendus par le PE et le public puissent etre adoptes au prochain Conseil le 28 juin.

Amities,  
M. Santarelli, COMEUR 12h////



