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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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## PRESS RELEASE

7626/83 (Presse 107)

856th meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Luxembourg, 16 and 17 June 1983

President: Mr Carl-Dieter SPRANGER,  
State Secretary,

Federal Ministry of the Interior  
of the Federal Republic of Germany



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 Christian CHRISTENSEN  
Minister for the Environment  
and for Nordic Affairs

Mr Holger LAVESSEN  
State Secretary,  
Ministry of the Environment

Germany:

Mr Carl-Dieter SPRANGER  
State Secretary  
Federal Ministry of the Interior

Greece:

Mr A. TRITSIS  
Minister for Regional Development  
and the Environment

Mr Franz KROPPESTEDT  
State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of the Interior

France:

Ms Huguette BOUCHARDEAU  
State Secretary attached to the  
Prime Minister,  
Ministry of the Environment and  
the Quality of Life

Ireland:

Mr Richard SPRING  
Tánaiste,  
Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Paolo GALLI  
Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL  
Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr P. WINSEMIUS  
Minister for Housing, Regional  
Development and Environment  
Protection

United Kingdom:

Mr Willian WALDEGRAVE  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
of State,  
Department of the Environment

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN  
State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
(responsible for European  
Affairs)

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES  
Member

ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF CERTAIN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROJECTS

The Council again examined in detail the proposal for a Directive concerning the assessment of the environmental effects of certain private and public projects.

This proposal would oblige Member States to make an appropriate assessment of a number of projects likely to have significant environmental effects. The proposal defines a project as the execution of construction works or other intervention in the natural surroundings and landscape including those involving the extraction of mineral resources.

The Council concluded by instructing the Permanent Representative Committee to continue examining the questions of principle outstanding.

CADMIUM

The Council agreed to the proposal for a Directive on pollution caused by dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community (fresh water and sea water).

The proposal is the second implementing Directive under framework Directive 76/464/EEC. The first implementing Directive relating to mercury discharges by the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry into the aquatic environment was adopted by the Council in March 1982.

Like the Directive on mercury, the proposal for a Directive on cadmium is twofold in its approach, providing, as it does, for both Community limit values and quality objectives.

For Member States which have opted for the limit value approach, the Directive lays down the values which must be complied with from 1 January 1986 by the major industrial sectors using cadmium in their manufacturing processes and which will become more stringent three years later.

Member States which have opted for the quality objective approach will have to meet the objectives laid down in the Directive for fresh water, estuarial waters and territorial waters.

The Directive will be formally adopted once legal and linguistic finalization of the text has taken place.

MEASURES CONCERNING USED CONTAINERS FOR CERTAIN BEVERAGES

The Council held a wide-ranging policy debate on the Commission proposal for a Directive on containers of liquids for human consumption. The purpose of the proposal is to encourage the Member States to adopt a series of measures in the field of the production, marketing, use and recycling of containers of certain beverages and as regards the disposal of used containers in order to reduce consumption of energy and raw materials in this field and at the same time reduce the environmental impact of used containers.

The Council noted that positions had moved closer on some of the points outstanding also that most delegations felt that the provisions to be adopted should take the form of a Directive.

The Council agreed to resume examination of the points outstanding as soon as the European Parliament had delivered its Opinion. It stressed the importance of having this Opinion as soon as possible.

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION ON FINANCING OF COMMUNITY ACTION  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT (ACE)

This proposal for a Regulation provides that Community support may be granted under certain conditions for projects in the fields of:

- development of clean technologies;
- protection of the natural environment in sensitive areas of Community interest.

The Council examined the main problems raised by the proposal, in particular:

- the principle of Community action;
- the scope of such action;
- the budgetary implications;
- the implementing rules, including participation by the Member States in the decision-making process.

A generally favourable attitude to the broad outline of the proposal emerged and the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the matter so that a Regulation could be formally adopted as soon as possible.

COMBATING AIR POLLUTION FROM INDUSTRIAL PLANT

The Council held an initial exchange of views on a Commission proposal for a Directive to step up measures at Community level to combat air pollution. The proposal stipulates that Member States will have to require prior authorization for the building of industrial plants likely to cause air pollution and that such authorization will be subject to certain conditions.

In the course of the discussion it became apparent that all the delegations were favourably disposed to the Commission proposal.

Having noted the points of concern raised by some delegations, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its proceedings on the matter on the basis of the discussion at this meeting.

The Council also took note of a statement on measures against air pollution in the Athens area made on behalf of the Greek delegation by the Minister, Mr TRITSIS.



LEAD IN PETROL

Following an exchange of views on this matter the Council stated that its final objective was to reduce the amount of lead in the environment.

The Council would begin by seeing that all the measures already adopted at Community level were completed as soon as possible.

With regard to the special case of lead in petrol, the Council stated its willingness to try to reduce as much as possible the amounts used, ending up - perhaps - with the use of a leadless petrol.

For this purpose the Council asked the Commission to submit whatever proposals it considered appropriate. The Council will examine an interim report at its next meeting with a view to preparing for the examination of the proposals which the Commission will be presenting around 15 April 1984.

TRANSFRONTIER MOVEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

Following an exchange of views on this subject, the Council:

- stated that urgent action was necessary to strengthen existing Community control over the transfrontier movement of hazardous waste;
- recognized that a legally binding Community instrument was necessary to complete the directives that already exist in this area;
- agreed that it must be ensured that competent authorities of Member States concerned are informed in advance of transfrontier movement of hazardous waste so that they may satisfy themselves that appropriate arrangements have been made;
- agreed that stricter conditions for the transfrontier movement of hazardous waste must be established;
- instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to endeavour to reach rapid agreement on a legally binding Community instrument with a view to its adoption as soon as possible and at latest by the end of 1983.

AIR POLLUTION BY GASES FROM POSITIVE-IGNITION ENGINES OF MOTOR VEHICLES

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the measures to be taken against air pollution caused by gases from positive-ignition engines of motor vehicles.

This Directive is an important new contribution to improving air quality and provides for a further reduction of 20 and 30 % in the limit values applicable to carbon monoxide (CO) emissions and combined emissions of hydrocarbons (HC) and nitrogen oxides (NOx). These reductions are given greater impact by the introduction of a new measurement which increases measurement precision.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL ON CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS: RE-EXAMINATION OF THE SITUATION

The Council took note of a Commission communication on the re-examination of the measures already taken to limit CFC emissions in the light of available scientific and economic data <sup>(1)</sup>.

It also noted that, on the basis of the information now available to it, the Commission had reached the conclusion that it was not necessary to alter the policy of preventive measures so far followed in the Community.

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<sup>(1)</sup> See Council Decision of 13.11.82.

PESTICIDE EXPORTS

The Council took note of a statement from the Netherlands delegation suggesting that, in view of the many ecological accidents caused by the use of pesticides in developing countries, Community rules should be adopted regarding exports of certain dangerous pesticides to non-member countries.

It called upon the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine any proposals the Commission would submit on this matter.

WASTE FROM THE TITANIUM DIOXIDE INDUSTRY

The Council took note of a statement from the Italian delegation on the importance it attaches to speedy adoption of the proposal for a Directive on the harmonization of programmes for the reduction of pollution caused by the titanium dioxide industry submitted by the Commission in April 1983.

3rd ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMME

The Council took note of a statement from the Italian delegation on the priority Community actions listed in the 3rd action programme adopted by the Council in December 1982 and particularly the actions relating to environmental protection in the Mediterranean area.

The Commission representative stated that a Commission report on the matter would be submitted to the Council for its next meeting.

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NOTE BIO(83) 271 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE PAROLE

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OBJET : PREPARATION DU CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT DU 16 JUIN 1983  
A LUXEMBOURG (O VON SCHWERIN)

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LE CONSEIL DEBUTERA A 10 HEURES. UN ORDRE DU JOUR TRES CHARGE.  
LES POINTS SUIVANTS SONT SUSCEPTIBLES D AVANCER OU MEME  
ABOUTIR :

1. DIRECTIVE CONC. LES GAZ D ECHAPPEMENT DES VEHICULES A MOTEUR:

IL S AGIT DE LA 4 EME MODIFICATION D UNE DIRECTIVE DE 1970 SUR  
LA REDUCTION DES NORMES LIMITEES POUR L EMISSION DE MONOXYDE  
DE CARBONE ET STICKOXYDE. ■■■■

CETTE DIRECTIVE, A LAQUELLE TIENT BEAUCOUP L OPINION PUBLIQUE  
EN RAISON DE L IMPACT PRESUME SUR LES PLUIES ACIDES, CONDUIRAIT,  
SI ELLE SERAIT ADOPTEE, A UNE REDUCTION ENTRE 20 ET 30 0/0  
DES EMISSIONS NOCIVES.

2. DIRECTIVE SUR L EVALUATION DES INCIDENCES ■■■ SUR L ENVI-  
RONNEMENT DES OUVRAGES PUBLICS ET PRIVES :

POINT A L ORDRE DU JOUR DEPUIS PLUSIEURS CONSEILS, ADOPTION  
TOUJOURS INCERTAINE EN RAISON NOTAMMENT DE L OPPOSITION  
BRITANNIQUE D ADOPTER UNE LISTE CONTRAIGNANTE DE PROJETS A  
SOUMETTRE. NEANMOINS, DES PROGRES PARAISSENT POSSIBLES.

3. CADMIUM : DIRECTIVE SUR LA FIXATION DE VALEURS LIMITEES DES  
REJETS DE CADMIUM DANS LES MILIEUX AQUATIQUES :

IL S AGIT DE LA DEUXIEME DIRECTIVE APRES LA DIRECTIVE 'MERCURE'.  
PROBLEME PRINCIPAL : REGIMES IMPOSES AUX NOUVELLES INSTALLA-  
TIONS. UNE PROPOSITION DE COMPROMIS DE LA COMMISSION EST SUR LA  
TABLE DU CONSEIL.

4. PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT SUR ■DES ACTIONS COMMUNAUTAIRES  
DANS L ENVIRONNEMENT (ACE) :

ADOPTION PARAIT PEU PROBABLE EN RAISON DE L OPPOSITION DE  
PLUSIEURS DELEGATIONS (F, R.U.) DE CREER UN NOUVEL INSTRUMENT  
COMPORTANT DES DEPENSES AVANT LA SOLUTION DES PROBLEMES BUDGE-  
TAIRES GENERAUX.

L AFFAIRE SERA TRAITE DANS LA PROCEDURE DU TRILOGUE BUDGETAIRE.

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M. SANTARELLI

PORTE-PAROLE

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5. PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT SUR LES TRANSPORTS DES DECHETS TOXIQUES INDUSTRIELS :

LE PROBLEME A LARGEMENT ETE DISCUTE DANS LE CONTEXTE DE L AFFAIRE DE SEVESO. SUITE A LA RESOLUTION DU PARLEMENT EUROPEEN, IL DEVRAIT ETRE POSSIBLE DE CONCLURE AU MOINS SUR LES PRINCIPES GENERAUX DE CETTE PROPOSITION. SI L ADOPTION DEFINITIVE N EST PAS POSSIBLE, ELLE DEVRA PASSER A UN PROCHAIN CONSEIL OU MEME UN CONSEIL SPECIEL ENVIRONNEMENT POUR SATISFAIRE LES ATTENTES DE L OPINION PUBLIQUE.

6. POINTS DIVERS :

- EMBALLAGE POUR LIQUIDES ALIMENTAIRES :  
RELATIVEMENT AVANCE, MAIS LES ETATS MEMBRES RESTENT DIVISES SUR LA FORME JURIDIQUE : DIRECTIVE OU RECOMMANDATION.

- PLOMB DANS L ESSENCE :  
LES ETATS MEMBRES SONT ASSEZ PARTAGES. PLUSIEURS ENTRE EUX (NOTAMMENT D, NL) FAVORISENT UNE ELIMINATION COMPLETE, D AUTRES (F, I) SONT CONTRE UNE DECISION A CE STADE.

LE CONSEIL RISQUE DE DURER TARD DANS LA NUIT.

AMITIES, M. SANTARELLI  
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NOTE BIO(83) 271, SUITE 1 ET FIN, AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE PAROLE

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OBJET : CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT DU 16 JUIN 1983

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LE CONSEIL A TERMINE SES TRAVAUX CE MATIN (17.6.) VERS 2.30 H.

COMME IL ETAIT A PREVOIR, LA PLUPART DES POINTS A L ORDRE DU  
JOUR N ONT PAS PU ETRE RESOLU. NEANMOINS, IL YA CERTAINS  
PROGRES IMPORTANTS, NOTAMMENT DANS LE DOMAINE DE LA POLLUTION  
DE L AIR, QUI EST D UNE IMPORTANCE MAJEURE A L HEURE ACTUELLE  
EN RAISON DE LA DISCUSSION PUBLIQUE SUR LES PLUIES ACIDES.

1. POLLUTION DE L AIR PAR LES GAZ PROVENANT DES VEHICULES  
A MOTEUR

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■■■■■ CETTE DIRECTIVE A ETE ADOPTEE. ■■■■ ELLE PREVOIT LA REDUC-  
TION DES NORMES LIMITEES POUR L EMISSION DE MONOXYD DE CARBONE  
ET D OXYDES D AZOTE ET CONDUIT A UNE REDUCTION DE 20 A 30 O/O  
DES NORMES MAXIMA ACTUELLEMENT EN VIGUEUR, CE QUI CONSTITUE  
UNE ETAPPE IMPORTANTE DANS UN PROCESSUS DE REDUCTION ENTAME  
PAR LA COMMUNAUTE AU DEBUT DES ANNEES 70.

2. LUTTE CONTRE LA POLLUTION ATMOSPHERIQUE EN PROVENANCE DES  
INSTALLATIONS INDUSTRIELLES

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CETTE PREMIERE DISCUSSION SUR CETTE PROPOSITION DE DIRECTIVE  
CADRE A DEMONTRE UN SOUTIEN GENERAL DES DELEGATIONS, NOTAMMENT  
SUR LE PRINCIPE D UN ETABLISSEMENT DES PROCEDURES D AUTORISATION  
ET LA NECESSITE D APPLIQUER LES TECHNOLOGIES LES PLUS AVANCEES.

3. PLOMB DANS L ESSENCE

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DISCUSSION TRES ETENDUE SUR BASE DES MEMORANDA DE LA RFA,  
DES PAYS BAS ET DU ROYAUME UNI, DEMANDANT TOUS UN ENGAGEMENT  
A L ELIMINATION COMPLETE DU PLOMB DANS L ESSENCE, CE QUI S EST  
HEURTE A L OPPOSITION DES DELEGATIONS FRANCAISE ET ITALIENNE.  
LA CONCLUSION SUR CE POINT EST MOINS CONTRAIGNANTE QUE SOUHAITE  
PAR LES TROIS DELEGATIONS SUSMENTIONNEES : 'TOUS OUVERTS A  
RECHERCHER UNE REDUCTION LA PLUS GRANDE POSSIBLE DES TENEURS  
UTILISEES DEBOUCHANT, LE CAS ECHEANT, SUR L UTILISATION D UNE  
ESSENCE SANS PLOMB'.

■■■■■ NEANMOINS, CETTE FORMULE PERMET, AUX YEUX DE LA COMMISSION,  
LA POURSUITE D UNE APPROCHE COMMUNAUTAIRE.

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LE. ~~SECRET~~ P. CERF

