



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

10709/85 (Presse 181)

1046th Council meeting

- Environment -

Brussels, 28 and 29 November 1985

President: Mr Robert KRIEPS
 Minister for the Environment
 of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Christian CHRISTENSEN Minister for the Environment and Nordic Affairs

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

Germany:

Mr Franz KROPPESTEDT State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of the Interior

Greece:

Mr Evangelos KOULOUMBIS Minister for Public Works, Regional
Planning and the Environment

France:

Mrs Huguette BOUCHARDEAU Minister for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr Liam KAVANAGH Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Valerio ZANONE Minister for Ecology

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert KRIEPS Minister for the Environment

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

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Commission:

Mr Stanley CLINTON-DAVIS

Member

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The following also attended as observers:

Spain:

Mr J.-L. SAENZ-COSCULLUELA

Minister for Public Works and
Town Planning

Portugal:

Mr Carlos PIMENTA

State Secretary for the Environment
and Natural Resources

LIMIT VALUES AND QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR DISCHARGES OF CERTAIN DANGEROUS
SUBSTANCES INTO THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

1. The council reached a large measure of agreement on the limit values and quality objectives for the 4 substances proposed by the Commission. However, one delegation reserved its position on the inclusion of two of the substances (chloroform and carbon tetrachloride) in the proposed Directive pending further scientific examination in the light of the criteria for List 1 substances as defined in the parent Directive (76/464/EEC).
2. In these circumstances, and pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council invited the Commission to reconvene the Scientific Advisory Committee in order to re-appraise the evidence for these substances.
3. The Council will take its final decision at its next meeting on the Environment in the light of the opinions of both the Scientific Committee and the European Parliament.

LIMITATION OF EMISSIONS OF POLLUTANTS INTO THE AIR FROM LARGE
COMBUSTION PLANTS

The council resumed its discussions on the proposal for a directive on the limitation of emissions of pollutants into the air from large combustion plants.

After a wide-ranging discussion it was forced to conclude that views continued to differ as to how this proposal should be dealt with. It requested the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussions in the light of the comments made.

AIR POLLUTION BY MOTOR VEHICLES

Following the conclusions reached by the Council in June on the new emission values and the dates for their implementation, the Council reached broad agreement at this meeting on a number of more specific questions which had arisen in connection with the finalization of the text of the new Directive.

However, Denmark maintained its general reservation; moreover, the Greek delegation, without going back on the agreement Greece had given in June, wished to make it clear that its final agreement to the new Directive could be given only in the light of appropriate measures from the Commission and appropriate proposals which it would put to the Council, in line with the political commitment agreed at the June meeting regarding the special pollution problems experienced by Greece.

SULPHUR CONTENT OF CERTAIN LIQUID FUELS (gas oil)

The Council carried out an initial examination of the proposal for a Directive amending Directive 75/716/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels (gas oil). With the aim of combating air pollution, this proposal seeks to reduce the sulphur content of gas oils used mainly for domestic heating and as diesel fuel.

Having concluded its examination, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussing the proposal in the light of the Opinion awaited from the European Parliament with a view to reaching an agreement so that the Directive could be adopted as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE CONTROL AND REDUCTION OF POLLUTION
CAUSED BY HYDROCARBONS AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES DISCHARGED AT SEA

The Council recorded its agreement to a Decision extending the Community information system on hydrocarbons, introduced in 1981, to other harmful substances.

The information system implemented under the responsibility of the Commission will make available to the competent authorities in the Member States the data required for the control and reduction of pollution caused by hydrocarbons and other harmful substances discharged at sea in large quantities.

In addition to the measures already introduced for hydrocarbons ⁽¹⁾, the system will in future comprise an inventory, to be compiled gradually by the Commission, of resources for intervention in the event of a discharge at sea of harmful substances other than hydrocarbons. It will be for Member States to collate and forward to the Commission the information available to them which is considered necessary for compiling the inventory.

In addition, the Commission will gradually compile, in the light of experience, a compendium of information concerning the properties and behaviour of harmful substances or groups of harmful substances other than hydrocarbons.

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- (¹) - a list of national and joint plans for combating pollution caused by hydrocarbons discharged at sea comprising a brief description of the content of the plans and naming the authorities responsible for them;
- an inventory of resources for combating pollution of the sea by hydrocarbons;
 - a compendium of hydrocarbon properties and their behaviour and of methods of treatment and end uses of mixtures of water-hydrocarbon-solid matter recovered from the sea or along the coast.

USE OF SEWAGE SLUDGE IN AGRICULTURE

The Council held an exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive designed to promote the use of certain solid waste in agriculture by stressing the agronomic value of these products, and to lay down the precautionary measures to be taken to ensure that such waste is used correctly in agriculture so as to avoid any risk to man and the environment.

At the end of its discussion the Council stressed the importance it attached to this proposal, notably in the broader context of the relation between the environment and agriculture, and, noting that substantial progress had been made, asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussions to enable it to reach full agreement as soon as possible with a view to the Directive being adopted.

POLLUTION CAUSED BY THE TITANIUM DIOXIDE INDUSTRY

The Council continued its discussions on the amended proposal for a Directive on procedures for harmonizing programmes for the reduction and eventual elimination of pollution caused by waste from the titanium dioxide industry.

At the close of its debate the Council noted that delegations' positions had not evolved sufficiently to enable agreement to be reached, and requested the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume its discussions with a view to reaching an overall solution.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

The Council held a preliminary general discussion on the environment and agriculture.

Stressing the importance of this question, the Council called on the Commission to continue its work in this field so as to promote the harmonious development of agriculture and environmental protection.

In addition, it was agreed that the Environment Council would be kept informed of developments concerning this issue. It was also agreed that the Presidency would report to the Agriculture Council on this subject with a view to the Council's discussion scheduled for December.

PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN THE COMMUNITY AGAINST FIRE AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The Council noted the current state of play and the progress made within the Council (Agriculture) on the proposal for a Regulation establishing a Community scheme to provide forests in the Community with increased protection against fire and atmospheric pollution.

The Council noted that some delegations still had difficulties with this proposal, and asked the Commission to continue its talks with the delegations concerned with a view to seeking an overall solution.

PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION YEAR (1987)

Subject to more detailed examination of the measures proposed, the Council welcomed the Commission communication on a programme of action on European Environmental Protection Year (1987).

At the end of the initial exchange of views, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on this issue and report back at the earliest opportunity, if possible before the end of 1985.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy and customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of basic chromium sulphate originating in Yugoslavia.

As the temporary mutual-restraint agreement between Norway and the Community on trade in cheese, signed on 11 April 1983, was due to expire on 31 December 1985, the Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations with a view to concluding a new agreement between the European Economic Community and Norway on trade in cheese.

Second EEC-Malta Financial Protocol

The Council approved the text of the second EEC-Malta Financial Protocol and decided to sign it; the signing will take place within the next few days.

The Protocol provides for Community participation in the financing of measures to contribute to the social and economic development of Malta up to an overall amount of 29,5 MECU, broken down into 16 MECU in the form of EIB loans from its own resources and 13,5 MECU financed from the Community's budget, of which 3 MECU would take the form of special loans and 10,5 MECU that of grants.

The Protocol will expire five years after the first Financial Protocol, i.e. on 31 October 1988.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent under the first paragraph of Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty on a draft Commission Decision (ECSC) amending Decision No 73/287/ECSC of 15 July 1973 concerning coal and coke for the iron and steel industry in the Community (see the Press Release from the Energy Council on 11.XI.85 - fixing the eligible tonnage for 1986 at 8,5 million t).

Appointments

On a proposal from the Confédération des Syndicats chrétiens de Belgique (Confederation of Christian Trade Unions of Belgium), the Council appointed Mr François CAMMARATA, General Secretary of the Centrale chrétienne des Métallurgistes (Christian Union of Metal-workers), member of the Consultative Committee of the ECSC to replace Mr Jean DOYEN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 17 February 1987.

Moreover, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision appointing members and alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers for the period from 28 November 1985 to 27 November 1987:

I. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

	(a) <u>Members</u>		(b) <u>Alternates</u>
Belgium	Mr F. CASSIERS	Mr R. DE PAUW	Mr Ch. DENEVE
Denmark	Mr A. TRIER	Mr P. VORRE	Mr N.O. ANDERSEN
Germany	Mr H. KAUPPER	Mr A. SCHNEIDER	Mr W. LAST
Greece	Mrs M. KATSACHNIA	Mr N. MANASSIS	Mr P. TSOUKATOS
France	Mr H.L. TELLIER	Mr A. MEURINNE	Miss J. GUIGUEN
Ireland	Mr J. DOWNEY	Mr E. McCUMISKEY	Mr W.C. CONWAY
Italy	Mr A. GALLO	Mr L. CRISTOFANELLI	Mrs F. SELVAGGI
Luxembourg	Mr A. DERATTE	Mr A. THILL	Mr G. SCHROEDER
Netherlands	Mr L. VOOGD	Mr N.G.C. van DONK	Mr A.G. BLOEMHEUVEL
United Kingdom	Miss J.M. RICHARDS	Miss K.E.W. BLUNT	Mr R.F. MILLS

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II. REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Members

(b) Alternates

Belgium	Mr L. FRANSMAN	Mrs M.-L. STORME	Mrs L. DE KEYSER
Denmark	Mrs H. SIMONSEN	Mrs B. JOHANSEN	Mr P. SKIBELUND
Germany	Mr F. SCHNABEL	Mr B. HEINZEMANN	Mr W. GLAUBITZ
Greece	Mr B. KRITIKOS	Mr D. GANGAS	Mr Ch. NIKOLAKOPOULOS
France	Mr B. CARON	Mrs M.J. BAFFOY	Mr P. de LAMER
Ireland	Mr T.G. HARRINGTON	Mr J. HARTY	Mr A.F. RICE
Italy	Mr C.A. MARZOCCHI	Mr M. MASELLI	Mr V. VALERIANI
Luxembourg	Mr L. RECKINGER	Mr M. SAUBER	Mr R. BEFFORT
Netherlands	Mr G. VERHEY	Mrs Th.M. SNELDERS	Mr J.H. ZWARTS
United Kingdom	Mr W.G. ASHLEY	Mr M.D. RIDDLES	Mrs S. ANDERSON

III. TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

(b) Alternates

Belgium	Mr J.-L. STALPORT	Mr E. LOOF	Mrs A. DE KINDER
Denmark	Mr E. BALLE	Mr E. HEMMINGSEN	Mr P. NIELSEN
Germany	Mr G. FAUPEL	Mr W. KOHNE	Mr R.-D. ASCHENBECK
Greece	Mr I. PAPAMICHAIL	Mr I. PAIDAKAKIS	Mr G. DASSIS
France	Mr J..FABIANI	Mr S. CAPPE	Mr F. BOUILLE
Ireland	Mr P. MERRIGAN	Mr W. WALLACE	Mr P. MURPHY
Italy	Mr G. TOSINI	Mr N. di MEOLA	Mr E. GRECO
Luxembourg	Mr R. PIZZAFERRI	Mr H. DUNKEL	Mr J. MARCUS
Netherlands	Mrs I. KETELAAR	Mr F. PRINS	Mrs M.J.Ph.A. CLERX
United Kingdom	Mr J.F. ECCLES	Mr T.W. MAWER	Mr J. MacGUAGAN

Finally, the Council appointed the following Directors-General of the General Secretariat of the Council with effect from 1 January 1986:

Mr Jean-Louis DEWOST (as legal adviser)

Mr Wolfgang PINI

Mr Ulrich WEINSTOCK.

Brussels, 27 November 1985

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NOTE BIO(85) 386 TO NATIONAL OFFICES
COPIED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

PREPARATION ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL, NOVEMBER 28 1985

(M. Berendt)

This week's Council will be dominated by problems of air pollution, as ministers consider three measures to limit at source the output of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and other polluting substances. The three measures concern:

- motor vehicles
- large combustion installations
- heating oil

MOTOR VEHICLES

Nine Member States agreed in Luxembourg on June 27-28 on a programme for the introduction of stricter emission norms for motor cars beginning in 1988. Denmark put a reserve on the agreement, arguing the need for American norms to be applied in Europe rather than the European standards accepted by the other Member States. A full text of the directive has now been virtually finalised by officials, but Denmark continues to maintain its general reserve.

The directive has to be adopted by unanimous decision, so the Danish reserve will be a major preoccupation of the Council.

The Commission accepts that the effect of the Luxembourg agreement in reducing emissions will be less marked in Denmark than elsewhere because of differences in patterns of car use there (90km per hour speed limit on motorways, for example) but sees serious dangers for the Community's environment if Denmark's reserve blocks adoption of a directive which will lead to a substantial reduction in pollution for motor vehicles in the Community as a whole.

The Commission is expected to make a statement to the Council outlining its intentions concerning diesel vehicles and speed limits, but detailed proposals have not yet been finalised.

Several Member States support a British proposal under which individual governments could oblige their manufacturers to make their cars so they could run on lead-free petrol at dates earlier than those envisaged by the Commission.

LARGE COMBUSTION INSTALLATIONS

The Commission is keen to see serious negotiations on this point, since power station emissions account for a high proportion of nitrogen oxide emissions - more than 40% in Italy and the United Kingdom, for instance - and of sulphur dioxide emissions, where more than 70% of Community output is produced by large combustion plants.

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The Commission's proposals fall into two parts:

- REDUCTION IN GLOBAL EMISSIONS, whereby there would be a progressive cutback from all plants above 50Mw between 1980 and 1995. These reductions would be on a national basis as follows:

sulphur dioxide	- 60%
dust	- 40%
nitrogen oxides	- 40%

- EMISSION LIMITS FOR NEW PLANTS which would vary according to the type of fuel used and the size of plant.

On reducing global emissions, five delegations are resisting the idea of harmonised reductions, arguing that such an approach does not take adequate account of the varying situation in Member States. The five are Italy, the United Kingdom, Greece, Luxembourg and Ireland. The Commission accepts that special problems arise for the small countries, relating to their stage of economic development, fuels locally available and other factors, but believes that Italy and the United Kingdom should accept the Commission's proposals if air pollution is to be substantially reduced. Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom also have doubts about the proposed limit values which would be applied to new plants.

SULPHUR IN GAS OIL

This proposal, which was submitted to the Council in July, provides for a reduction in the sulphur content of gas oil, which is used for central heating, other fixed plant and vehicles. The present maximum sulphur content is 0.5% and 0.3%, the higher figure being used where there is less pollution from this source. The Commission has proposed 0.3% with authorization to reduce to 0.2% in areas with severe environmental problems.

The German minister is expected to press for lower limits, an idea which other member States will resist.

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

A Community directive already exists for controlling pollution caused by discharge of dangerous chemicals into water (76/464/EEC). Council is now discussing a further Commission proposal which provides a general framework for Community action, streamlining procedures so that decisions can be taken quickly and effectively when further products need to be added to the list. The proposal provides for the use of both limit values (which set limits on discharge levels at factories) and quality objectives (which aim for certain standards of purity in the water) in applying the directive.

The Commission proposes four specific substances to be regulated under this new procedure. These are DDT (used as pesticide), PENTACHLOROPHENOL (disinfectants, wood preservatives), CHLOROFORM (the main constituent of chemicals for coolants, solvents, fire extinguishers) and CARBON TETRACHLORIDE (the main constituent for chemicals used in aerosol propellants, plastic foams). Greece, Ireland and the United Kingdom are resisting the inclusion of chloroform and

carbon tetrachloride on the grounds that these do not constitute a serious enough danger to regulate in this way. The Commission believes that they do represent a serious risk and should be strictly controlled.

EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The Commission has submitted a paper to the Council outlining the organisation and programme which it plans to establish for the European Year of the Environment (1987).

OTHER POINTS TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDE THE INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR HARMFUL SUBSTANCES DISCHARGED AT SEA, which would extend the scope of the existing information system for hydrocarbons discharged into the sea and is expected to be agreed in the Council, SEWAGE SLUDGE, a proposal intended to encourage the recycling of waste by promoting the use of certain types of solid waste in agriculture, TITANIUM DIOXIDE, a proposed directive considered at five environment councils and AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT, on the environmental issues raised in the green paper on the development of the common agricultural policy.

regards,

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H. PAEMEN COMEUR////

Bruxelles, le 29 novembre 1985
NOTE BIO(85)386(suite 1 et fin)AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE

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ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL (28 NOVEMBER 1985) (M. Berendt)

A difficult Council ended at six this morning with few real decisions, but having finalised the text of the directive on motor vehicle emissions subject to Danish and - belatedly - Greek reserves after having the first serious Council discussion on power station emissions.

VEHICLE EMISSIONS

Ministers were able to finalise the text of the directive implementing the June 28 Luxembourg agreement, but could not formally adopt it because of the two reserves. A number of technical points had to be clarified to satisfy the British delegation. These provide a three-year additional period for adoption of European norms by direct injection diesel engines for medium-sized cars (1996 for new models, 1998 for new cars); special specifications for automatic transmission cars; and a provision allowing a Member State to oblige its own vehicle manufacturers to make cars that can run on lead-free petrol from October 1 1988 (new models over 2 litres), October 1 1989 (other new models) and October 1 1990 (new cars).

The Danish minister refused to lift his reserve, arguing that the effects of the Luxembourg agreement would not be strict enough in view of Danish conditions of car use and type. He still wanted American values. This was despite Commission proposals to help the Danes which would allow them to compensate vehicle owners for fitting non-polluting technology to their cars, would commit the Council to decide European stage II standards for small cars by 1987 with "a significant improvement" on stage I norms and would involve monitoring technical progress to ensure that new developments were quickly incorporated into European standards.

Responding to the Danish position, Commissioner Stanley Clinton Davis said that the reserve meant that Denmark was blocking a clear environmental gain for other Member States and for itself. It was a great pity that Denmark was putting a brake on progress. It would have been much better if we could have seen Denmark in the van of progress rather than hanging back. However, the Commission proposed to leave the offer open in the hope that progress could be made.

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The Greek reserve was unexpected, since an agreement a Neuf had been reached in June stating that the Commission would examine the particular problems of air pollution in Athens with the Greek government. Discussions have been continuing, the most recent being in Athens between the Commissioner and the Greek minister last weekend. Today the Greek minister told the Council that a commitment should be made by Commission and Council to provide finance to deal with the Athens pollution problem through the economic instruments of the Community, but not through IMP or the Regional Fund.

In response to a French request, the Commission stated its commitment to finalise proposals on lorries, diesel particulates, technical control and speed limits before the end of the year. The German delegation reported the results of the speed limit test recently completed and the French minister Mme. Bouchardeau stressed the importance of speed limits in the interest of reducing pollution and increasing safety.

LARGE COMBUSTION INSTALLATIONS

The British Minister William Waldegrave maintained the stance during the debate on large combustion installations that adoption of the Commission proposals for cutting down emission levels would not be justified in terms of cost/benefit. No one could be sure of the causes of forest dieback. For many other delegations, especially Germany, France and the Netherlands, the proposal was a high priority. The Italian minister was anxious to obtain special arrangements reflecting the particular circumstances of his country although it is one of the four countries which between them produce 85 % of the Community's sulphur dioxide emissions from large combustion installations. Greece, Luxembourg and Ireland all pleaded special conditions.

An attempt to agree the outlines of a decision to be taken by June 30 1986 was unsuccessful, even at the level of nine Member States (excluding the UK).

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

There was a large measure of agreement on the proposed framework directive for controlling the discharge of dangerous substances into water, but the inclusion of chloroform and carbon tetrachloride in the annex was fiercely resisted by the British. The Council agreed to decide on the proposal at its next session in the light of scientific studies on the two disputed substances and taking account of the European Parliament's views.

INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR DISCHARGES AT SEA

This provided the only legally binding decision of the Council. Ministers agreed to the widening to other substances of the information system for hydrocarbons discharged at sea. The system is particularly valuable in combating oil or chemical spills.

EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT (1987)

The Commission's proposals for the Year received an enthusiastic response from ministers, several of whom stressed the importance of undertaking practical projects. COREPER will be discussing the draft resolution further, in the hope of reaching a decision by the end of the year.

SULPHUR IN GASOIL

Hopes of progress in this proposal foundered. The German government was looking for a lower sulphur content than the Commission had proposed, but other delegations (the United Kingdom, Greece) could not accept a presidency compromise, so the subject is referred to COREPER.

AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In a brief discussion of the green paper, ministers welcomed the Commission's belief that environmental considerations should play an important part in agricultural policy. They also welcomed the proposals for governing the use of sewage sludge in agriculture, although some further technical work is needed to finalise the text. A discussion on a monitoring system for forest fires and acid rain met the usual British/German opposition, arguing that there is no legal basis for the proposal.

The consistent factor of all environment councils, titanium dioxide, was once again referred to COREPER.

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regards,

H. PAEMEN COMEUR////

b.o. 