

PRESS RELEASE

6895/88 (Presse 90)

1251st meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Luxembourg, 16 and 17 June 1988

President: Mr Klaus TOEPFER,
Federal Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and
Reactor Safety
of the Federal Republic of Germany

*Includes continuation of 1251st meeting, 28 and 29 June 1988

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:

Mrs Lone DYBKJAER Minister for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Klaus TOEPFER Federal Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Reactor
Safety

Mr Clemens STROETMANN State Secretary at the Federal
Ministry of the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Reactor
Safety

Greece:

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

Spain:

Mr Javier SANEZ COSCULLUELA Minister for the Public Works and
Town Planning

France:

Mr Brice LAHONDE State Secretary for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr Pdraig FLYNN Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Giorgio RUFFOLO Minister for the Environment
Mrs Elena MARINUCCI State Secretary for Health

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert KRIEPS

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr E.H.T.M. NIJPELS

Minister for Housing,
Planning and the Environment

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Planning and
Territorial Administration

Mr José MACARIO CORREIA

State Secretary for the Environment

United Kingdom:

The Earl of CAITHNESS

Minister of State,
Department of the Environment

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Commission:

Mr Stanley CLINTON-DAVIS

Member

OZONE: APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION AND
THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

The Council reached a substantive agreement on:

- the Decision concluding and implementing the Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer and the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, and
- the Regulation laying down common rules applicable to certain products which deplete the ozone layer.

The Community signed the Vienna Convention in March 1985 and the Montreal Protocol in September 1987. Most Member States have also signed the two acts.

To enable the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol to enter into force on 1 January 1989, the Decision approved today requires Member States to take the necessary steps to ratify the Convention by 1 October and the Protocol by the end of the year. It is absolutely necessary for the Community and its Member States to meet these deadlines for ratification if the number of ratifications required for the acts to enter into force on time is to be reached.

The Regulation lays down specific rules for restricting the production, sale and import of CFCs and halons, in order to apply the Montreal Protocol in the Community. It will be remembered that the Protocol provides for:

- a freeze on the production and consumption of CFCs and halons at 1986 levels, to take effect one year after the Protocol enters into force (scheduled for 1 January 1989);
- reduction to 80% of 1986 levels from 1 July 1993, and to 50% from 1 July 1998.

Lastly, the Council reached agreement on a Resolution on the use of CFCs and halons in products. In this Resolution, the Council:

1. STRESSES that in addition to the Regulation implementing the Montreal Protocol in the Community urgent action should be taken in order to limit the use of CFCs and halons in products and equipment containing them or in processes using them, in particular by the measures mentioned below;
2. UNDERLINES the need for the Community and the Member States to encourage further research into climate change and the ozone layer and, in consultation with industry, into alternative, environmentally sound products, equipment or processes;
3. INVITES the Commission, in co-operation with the Member States, to initiate discussions on voluntary agreements at the Community level with all the industries concerned, wherever feasible to substitute CFCs and halons in products, such as aerosols, or in equipment or processes using them, or if such substitution is not feasible to reduce the use of these substances, so that the total amounts of these substances used will be reduced to the maximum possible extent. It further invites the Commission to report on progress made;
4. INVITES the Commission, in co-operation with the Member States, to initiate discussions with the industries concerned with a view to concluding a voluntary agreement on a common Community label for CFC-free products;

5. STRESSES the great importance of any reductions in the use of CFCs and halons in products, equipment and processes resulting from national or Community measures as mentioned above not being offset by increases in other uses of these substances or increases in other parts of the Community, but being safeguarded for the protection of human health and the environment and therefore REQUESTS the Commission to evaluate annually the impact of such reductions and to submit by 31 December 1990 at the latest, and at regular intervals thereafter, a report to the Council. When necessary, the Commission will submit appropriate proposals to the Council.

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The Council referred the three acts to the Permanent Representatives Committee for legal/linguistic finalization so that they could be formally adopted as soon as possible.

LARGE COMBUSTION PLANTS

Agreement in principle was reached on the main aspects of the Directive on the limitation of emissions of pollutants into the air from large combustion plants, with some delegations maintaining scrutiny reservations.

The aspects agreed on regard in particular:

- reductions in overall emissions of SO₂ from existing plants in three stages: 1993, 1998 and 2003. The reductions have been differentiated according to Member State to reflect the need for a balanced distribution of the effort required taking account of the specific situation obtaining in each Member State;
- reductions in overall NO_x emissions from existing plants in two stages. These reductions were determined using a similar approach to that adopted for SO₂ emissions;
- Community emission limit values for SO₂, NO_x and dust for new plants, subject to
 - = the adoption of specific provisions for certain types of fuel and plant, i.e. high sulphur fuel, lignite, peak load installations and refineries;
 - = Spain being granted a derogation for solid fuel to allow for its specific energy situation.

It was agreed that delegations would make known whether they could withdraw their reservations by 24 June 1988, so that the Council could adopt this Directive as soon as possible.

POLLUTANT EMISSION FROM PRIVATE VEHICLES FITTED WITH DIESEL ENGINES

The Council adopted the Directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by gases from diesel engines of private vehicles.

In addition to laying down limits for gaseous emissions, the amendment seeks to impose limits for particulate emissions from private vehicles fitted with diesel engines.

To that end, the Directive provides as follows:

- first stage: from 1.10.1989 for new models
 from 1.10.1990 for all new vehicles
the limit value will be 1,1 g/test;

- second stage: the Council considered that a second stage in the reduction of particulate emissions must be implemented as quickly as possible and that a level of 0,8 g/test should be achieved, taking into account the technical and economic possibilities existing at that time.

Before the end of 1989 the Council will decide on the implementation of the second stage, on the basis of a Commission proposal.

MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARDS

The Council adopted a common position, pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, on a proposal for a Directive amending for the second time Directive 82/501/EEC on the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities.

The aim of the Directive is to extend the scope of Directive 82/501/EEC to include all storage of dangerous chemicals, packaged or loose, whatever the site.

The Directive would also strengthen the information provisions by specifying a minimum number of items of information that must be supplied to the public; these include: the nature of the hazards to which the population and the environment are exposed, measures to be taken in the event of an accident, whether emergency plans exist and details of how to obtain further information.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

The Council heard a statement by Commissioner CLINTON-DAVIS who presented the Commission communication on the environment and agriculture and announced that, in furtherance of the fourth programme on the environment (1987-1992), the Commission would be submitted firm proposals before the end of the year in the following four specific areas: pollution from intensive farming, pollution from the overuse of fertilizers and pesticides, and the conservation of natural habitats.

The Commission communication will be examined by the Permanent Representatives Committee in preparation for a substantive discussion at the next meeting of the Environment Council.

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In this context the Council also heard two communications from the Spanish delegation, one relating to the protection of the soil against erosion and the other on the rehabilitation of coastal areas.

CROSS-BORDER SHIPMENT OF TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS WASTE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

At the request of the Netherlands and Belgian delegations and the Commission, the Council discussed exhaustively the issues connected with the cross-border shipment of toxic and hazardous waste to developing countries. The discussion showed that all delegations attached great importance to this problem.

Winding up the Council's discussion, the President noted a number of essential points that had emerged. It was agreed that the draft Conclusions submitted to the Council would undergo further examination by the Permanent Representatives Committee taking account of the Commission's suggestions so that the Council could express its views on all aspects of the problem.

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RESUMPTION OF PROCEEDINGS

The Council suspended proceedings until 28 June (16.00), when it will resume discussions on the remaining items on the agenda:

- Pollution by gases from motor vehicles with a small engine capacity
- Pollution caused by waste from the titanium dioxide industry
- Action in the environmental field which can also contribute to employment creation.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions on environmental matters

The Council formally adopted the Regulation concerning export from and import into the Community of certain dangerous chemicals. This Regulation introduces a common notification and information system for the import from and export to third countries of certain chemicals which, because of their effects on human health and the environment, are banned or severely restricted.

The Community and the Member States took part in the work carried out in such international organizations as the OECD, UNEP and FAO on drawing up draft notification and information systems for international trade in dangerous chemicals. The Regulation takes account of that work and implements Community measures in this area in accordance with uniform Community procedures, which also cover the exchange of information, monitoring, packaging and labelling.

The Regulation applies initially to 21 products. The list will be reviewed periodically by the Commission, particularly in the light of practical experience, and may be amended by the Council acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission.

The Council also formally adopted a Resolution concerning export from and import into the Community of certain dangerous chemicals. In this Resolution, the Council noted that certain Member States already implement measures in their territory in addition to those provided for in the Regulation including, for one Member State, the system described as "prior informed consent" of the country importing the dangerous chemicals; it invited the Commission to examine this question in greater detail and to submit, where necessary, in the light of information supplied by the Member States and developments in relevant international practices, detailed proposals with a view to possible adjustment of the Community instrument.

The Council also formally adopted:

- the Decision amending Decision 86/85/EEC establishing a Community information system for the control and reduction of pollution caused by the spillage of hydrocarbons and other harmful substances at sea.

The purpose of the amendment is to extend the information system to apply to the resources for intervention available in the event of spillage of hydrocarbons and other harmful substances in large quantities in major inland waters and in international waterways in particular.

To this end, an inventory of the resources for intervention available to Member States' authorities in the event of such accidents will be compiled, with a view to making them available to another Member State in case of need. The inventory will contain data on the manpower resources (specialist staff, task forces) and material resources available.

- the Directive amending Annex II to Directive 86/280/EEC on limit values and quality objectives for discharges of certain dangerous substances included in list I of the Annex to Directive 76/464/EEC.

In line with the development of scientific knowledge on their toxicity, the amendment adds a number of substances to the list of products for which compliance with emission limit values and quality objectives for the aquatic environment are required; these products are:

- = aldrin, dieldrin, endrin and isodrin
- = hexachlorobenzene
- = hexachlorobutadiene
- = chloroform;

the amendment also lays down limit values and quality objectives for these products.

Youth for Europe

The Council formally adopted the Decision establishing the "Youth for Europe" action programme for the promotion of youth exchanges in the Community. Adoption of the Decision follows on from the substantive agreement reached by the Education Council at its meeting on 24 May 1988 (see Press Release 6371/88 Presse 66).

Brussels, 15 June 1988

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NOTE BIO (88) 206 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

PREPARATION ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL - JUNE 16 1988 (M. Berendt)

This meeting of environment ministers is approached with hopeful anticipation, for some major issues should be resolved. The most urgent decision to be taken is on Community implementation of the Montreal protocol on the production of cfc's, including a commitment to sign and ratify the Vienna Convention and the Montreal protocol. Further progress should be possible on reducing emissions from large combustion plant and a decision is expected to reduce emissions from cars with diesel engines.

The Montreal protocol on cfc's

In September 1987 the Community was party to negotiation of the Montreal protocol on chlorofluorocarbons. This protocol reflected growing scientific concern that these substances, which are used in a wide range of products such as aerosols, furniture foam, refrigeration and firefighting equipment, might be damaging the ozone layer which protects the earth from solar radiation. It was agreed during the negotiation that a freeze on production of cfc's should be applied as from July 1 1989, followed by a 20 per cent cut from 1992 and a further 30 per cent in 1998.

If the protocol is to enter into force as foreseen on January 1 1989, then all the member states of the Community need to act quickly to sign and ratify both the Vienna Convention on the ozone layer and the Montreal protocol. Council adoption of Commission proposals would allow the Community as a whole and the member states to respect the deadline.

Ministers will also be discussing how to implement the protocol within the Community. The Commission proposes that the restrictions on industry should be applied on an EEC basis, with controls on total Community production and imports. It does not favour specific restrictions on individual products such as aerosols, because less consumer-oriented applications of cfc's are equally damaging to the ozone layer and replacement products need to be found for all potential uses. However, the Commission does welcome voluntary agreements between governments and industry.

There are likely to be provisions which keep open the possibility of additional measures in the future, and member states would be entitled to apply stricter measures than those in the protocol provided they did not interfere with Community trade.

Large combustion installations

For the first time after many years of negotiation, there is a glimmer of a possibility of reaching agreement on this difficult issue, so committing the Community to a programme for tackling a major source of air pollution.

Ministers will be negotiating to reduce global emissions of SO₂, NO_x and dust from power stations and large industrial combustion plant and to introduce tough standards for new installations. Until now the Spanish government has had fundamental reservations on the proposals and the British have also had serious problems, but there are now signs of movement.

For SO₂ the Commission originally proposed a 60 per cent country-by-country reduction between 1980 and 1995. Under the presidency compromise proposal this would be achieved by 2003 under a three-stage programme, with intermediate steps in 1993 and 1998. The reduction would apply to existing plant and would be 70 per cent for most member states, with a lower percentage for Greece (45 per cent), Spain (50 per cent), Ireland (38 per cent), Luxembourg (60 per cent) and Portugal (33 per cent).

For nitrogen oxides, the Commission's original 40 per cent target remains, but to be achieved in two phases, in 1993 and 1998. The British are expected to contest the timing and proposed reduction for SO₂, while special terms will be needed for Spain which take account of the large number of new Spanish power stations expected to be constructed and the high sulphur level of indigenous coal.

The other issue which promises to be difficult is the ceiling for application of the directive, where the minimum proposed size of 50 megawatts is contested by the UK. In the Commission's view, installations between 50 and 100MW are industrial plant, which could keep within the proposed emission standards by using available low-sulphur fuel.

The standards for all new installations would cut SO₂ emissions by more than 80 per cent compared with almost all existing plant and would roughly halve NO_x emissions.

Small car emission standards

The Council will have a further discussion of the Commission's proposed emission standards for small cars. These standards, which would take effect from 1992, would be the same as those already agreed for cars between 1.4 and 2 litres and would roughly halve emission levels from vehicles below 1.4 litres. The German minister may demand a commitment for a further review, and also call for the right to use fiscal incentives. Neither of these requirements is likely to be acceptable to the three producer countries, Italy, France and the United Kingdom, and this may preclude agreement at this Council.

Norms for particulate emissions from diesel cars are likely to be formally adopted.

Environment and employment

Commission's proposals for a programme of pilot projects to examine the impact of environmental improvement schemes on employment are modified under a presidency compromise which would introduce a scheme for three years with the possibility of a second phase of two years. A total of 33m ECU would be allocated. Germany, France, the Netherlands and the UK have reserves on the proposal.

Miscellaneous

Among the many other points on the agenda, there should be formal adoption of measures to limit emissions of dangerous substances such as pesticides, chloroform, HCBs and HCBDs in water, a possible decision on titanium dioxide waste dumping, a statement from the Commission on the environment and agriculture, some discussion of the export of toxic waste and an Italian statement on implementation of directives. There may also be a decision on modifying the Seveso directive in order to cover more plants and improve information for the public.

Amitiés,
G. Anoull



Bruxelles, le 17 Juin 1988

**NOTE BIO (88) 206 (suite 1 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole**

ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL: June 16 1988 (M. Berendt)

The Council was adjourned at 4 o'clock this morning, after two far-reaching decisions had been taken, one on the large combustion installations, the other on cfcs. Ministers will pick up the remaining items of business at a specially convened meeting on June 28.

Large combustion plant

The basis has been found for an agreement on large combustion plant. In a compromise submitted by the presidency and supported by the Commission, special arrangements were agreed for Spain which allow limited exemptions for a proportion of new plant burning indigenous or imported high sulphur fuels. It was agreed that the standards for new plant would apply from 50 megawatts, which will bring certain industrial plant within the scope of the directive.

As far as global emissions are concerned, the final compromise provided less demanding target figures than originally envisaged for the United Kingdom, which will now reduce sulphur dioxide emissions in three steps, of 20, 40 and 60 per cent. The steps will take place for all member states in 1993, 1998 and 2003. Ireland's third phase allows a 25 per cent increase in SO₂ emissions from the 1980 baseline. On nitrogen oxides, the UK will reduce by 15 per cent in 1993 and 30 per cent in 1998, compared with 20 and 40 per cent in the original compromise text.

France, Italy and Denmark still have reserves on certain aspects of the compromise.

Commenting on the basic agreement, Commissioner Clinton Davis said that the programme would mean that the 1980 sulphur dioxide emissions from existing power stations would be cut by more than 6 million tonnes a year by 1998, or more than half by the year 2003.

"The reductions will start as early as 1993, with a cut of more than 20 per cent over 1980 levels, and continue with a further major step in 1998. In addition to cutting the amount of sulphur dioxide pumped into the atmosphere each year, the programme will reduce atmospheric pollution from nitrogen oxides - another cause of acid rain.

The rules introduced for all new plants over 50MW will ensure that emissions from these installations will be no more than 20 per cent of emissions from normal existing plant and about half the level for nitrogen oxides."

Mr Clinton Davis said that the programme represented a huge financial effort by the Community and was a landmark in the Community's efforts to protect its environment, as well as being an example of good-neighbourliness.

Chlorofluorocarbons

The Council agreed the package of measures which will ensure Community implementation of the Montreal protocol on cfc's. There are three main elements in the decision:

1. A commitment to sign and ratify the Vienna Convention and the Montreal protocol in time to allow the protocol to take effect from January 1 1988.
2. Agreement on a regulation which will apply the protocol within the Community. Taking 1986 as a base year, each producer in the Community will freeze output from the middle of 1989, cut it by at least 20 per cent in 1992 and by a further 30 per cent in 1998. The same limits will be imposed on imports. This combination will determine the maximum quantities which can be used by industry within the Community.

A company wishing to rationalise production would be entitled to switch between plants, but could not transfer production between countries without the agreement of the country where production was being reduced. Member states are entitled under the regulation to take stricter measures provided they are compatible with the Treaty.

3. A resolution adopted by ministers concerning the use of cfc's stresses that if measures are taken to reduce the cfc's in a particular country, then this quantity should not become available for producers in other member states. The Commission is invited to evaluate the impact of these reductions and to report on them by the end of 1990, submitting proposals to the Council as necessary.

The Commission is also asked to initiate discussions with industry on the conclusion of voluntary agreements to substitute cfc's with other products and to explore the possibility of a common Community label for cfc-free (ozone-friendly) products.

June 28 meeting

Almost all the remaining points on the agenda will be taken when the Council resumes. These include modifications to the Seveso directive on accident hazards, second stage emission standards for vehicles under 1.4 litres, titanium dioxide and pilot projects for employment creation.

Amities,
C. Stathopoulos



PRESS RELEASE

7216/88 (Presse 105)

1251st meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Luxembourg, 28 and 29 June 1988

(continuation of the meeting on 16 and 17 June 1988)

President: Mr Klaus TOEPFER,
Federal Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and
Reactor Safety
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mme Miet SMET State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark:

Mrs Lone DYBKJAER Minister for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Klaus TOEPFER Federal Minister for the Environment,
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Mr Clemens STROETMANN State Secretary at the Federal
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Territorial Administration

Mr José MARCARIO CORREIA State Secretary for the Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr Colin MOYNIHAN Under-Secretary for the Environment

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Commission:

Mr Stanley CLINTON-DAVIS Member

LARGE COMBUSTION PLANTS

The Council reached full agreement on the Directive on the limitation of emissions of pollutants into the air from large combustion plants, one delegation having expressed its agreement subject to confirmation.

The Council had reached agreement in principle on the main aspects of the Directive at its meeting on 16 and 17 June 1988 (see press release No 6895/88 Presse 90).

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, once all reservations had been withdrawn, to carry out the technical and linguistic finalization of this Directive so that it could be adopted as soon as possible.

POLLUTION BY GASES FROM CARS WITH SMALL CUBIC CAPACITIES

Without prejudice to the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council's discussions made it possible to note that the initial reaction of the majority was favourable to the standards proposed by the Commission which were however viewed in the perspective of a third subsequent reduction of emission levels and accompanied by an undertaking to refrain from implementing national systems of incentives.

WASTE FROM THE TITANIUM DIOXIDE INDUSTRY

The Council approved guidelines on procedures for harmonizing the programmes for the reduction of pollution caused by waste from the titanium dioxide industry.

The guidelines were drawn up to serve as a basis for further discussions within the Council bodies on the proposal for a Directive submitted by the Commission and take account of the outcome of the discussions held to date.

The Council agreed that this Directive is of great importance and should if possible be adopted at the Council meeting (Environment) on 24 November 1988.

ENVIRONMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION

The Council resumed its examination of the proposal for a Decision establishing a 5-year Community-wide programme of projects illustrating how actions in the environmental field can also contribute to employment creation.

No agreement having been reached, in particular with regard to financing the programme, the Council agreed to continue its discussions in this context with a view to reaching agreement at the earliest opportunity.

PROTECTION OF THE NORTH SEA AND OTHER WATERS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council adopted the following Resolution:

"THE COUNCIL:

NOTES with concern the extensive growth of algae in certain areas of the North Sea and the Baltic, including the Skagerrak and the Kattegat, in May and June 1988 which is a symptom of a serious ecological imbalance;

NOTES with concern the number of seal deaths in the North Sea and POINTS OUT the possible links between the pollution of the North Sea by dangerous substances and the susceptibility of seals to disease;

POINTS OUT that nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) introduced into the sea contribute to the excessive fertilization and eutrophication of parts of the North Sea as well as the Baltic and other waters;

NOTES that similar ecological problems exist in certain parts of the Mediterranean basin;

NOTES the responsibility of all, including the Community, for the protection and environmental quality of the North Sea and of other waters;

INVITES THE COMMISSION:

- to submit, as soon as possible, appropriate proposals in the framework of the Fourth Environment Action Programme on the reduction of nutrients from diffuse sources, particularly from agriculture;
- in the light of the knowledge acquired at the Community water policy seminar in Frankfurt am Main on 27 and 28 June 1988, and taking into account the specific problems of different regions, to submit proposals for any further measures required at Community level for the treatment of municipal sewage and as regards industrial waste waters;

CONSIDERS that these actions will contribute to the implementation of the conclusions of the second International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea."

TRANSFERS OF TOXIC AND DANGEROUS WASTE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

After a detailed discussion on transfers of toxic and dangerous waste to developing countries, the President of the Council emphasized the need to reduce such transfers considerably and asked the Commission to submit a proposal with a view to empowering it to take part in the current UNEP negotiations on the draft Convention, and also to take account of the need to supplement Community legislation in this field.

Brussels, 29 June 1988

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NOTE BIO (88) 231 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE PORTE-PAROLE

ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL - 28 June 1988 (M.F. BERENDT)

The Environment Council has agreed a common position on second stage standards for small car exhaust emissions and has formally adopted the Community directive on large combustion installations.

The Council concluded its work at 04.30 this morning, having returned to Luxembourg to resume the meeting adjourned on June 17. It proved to be one of the most constructive environment councils on record, with its earlier decisions on chlorofluorocarbons, extension of the Seveso directive and adoption of a directive on diesel exhausts as well.

A common position on small cars was reached following persistent prompting by the Commission in a Council which was sometimes on the point of giving up. The problem was to find a formula which would remove the blocking minority (Germany, Denmark, Netherlands and Greece) in the way of adoption of the Commission proposals put forward in January 1988. These proposals were to apply the same standards for cars below 1.4 litres as for medium size cars, from 1992 for new models and 1993 for all new vehicles, namely 8 gms per test cycle for the combination of nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons and 30 gms per test for carbon monoxide.

The four blocking countries were seeking stricter standards, but in the end the German minister was able to rally to the majority view on the basis of the following additional elements:

- the directive will include an article committing the Council to consider a further reduction in emission levels by the end of 1991;
- the Commission will propose (before June 30 1989) a test cycle which represents driving conditions outside urban areas;
- the Commission will submit a report by December 31 1990 on the effect of the overall car emissions package, and will make proposals for improving the limit values for the various categories of cars, taking into account the request of some delegations for a NOx + CO limit of 5 gms per test.

With the common position on small cars (which now goes to the Parliament for second reading) the French minister Lalonde - whose reappointment was announced in the course of the night - was able to lift the remaining reserve on the power stations package which had been substantially agreed on June 16.

A major disappointment for the Council was its failure to agree a text on the export of toxic wastes. A Dutch demand that the Community should ban exports to certain developing countries proved unacceptable to the United Kingdom and no formulation could be found which would satisfy both positions. However, ministers effectively encouraged the Commission to continue negotiations under the United Nations Environment Programme for conclusion of an international convention on toxic waste.

Important decisions were taken on the discharge and dumping of waste (red sludge) from the titanium dioxide industry, although a detailed directive has still to be adopted. It was accepted that all dumping and discharge should end by December 1989, with derogation until December 31 1992 for Spain on dumping and for the UK and France on discharge, with a further six months' possibility for the UK.

No agreement could be reached on a scheme for demonstration projects on employment and environment protection.

Regards,

C.D. Ehlermann

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BRUSSELS, 29 JUNE 1988
NOTE BIO (88) 231 SUITE ET FIN (CORRECTION) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE PORTE-PAROLE

CORRECTION - ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

SMALL CARS - THE FIGURES GIVEN FOR EXHAUST EMISSIONS SHOULD READ:
8 GMS PER TEST CYCLE FOR THE COMBINATION OF NITROGEN OXIDES AND
HYDROCARBONS AND 30 GMS PER TEST FOR CARBON MONOXIDE.
REGARDS,
C. D. EHLERMANN

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