

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

ANNULE ET REMPLACE LE
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COM(92) 181 final

Brussels, 1 June 1992

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

for a monitoring mechanism of Community CO₂

and other greenhouse gas emissions

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The European Council held in Dublin on June 1990 recognized the global dimension of the greenhouse effect and urged all countries to adopt as soon as possible targets and strategies for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases.
2. The Joint Council of Energy and Environment Ministers agreed at their meeting on 29 October 1990 to take actions aiming at reaching stabilization of total CO₂ emissions by the year 2000 at 1990 levels.
3. The Commission's communication on "A Community Strategy to Limit Carbon Dioxide emissions and to improve energy efficiency" of 14 October 1991 recognized that a monitoring mechanism should be set up to follow whether the CO₂ stabilization target of the Community is being reached.
4. In this context the Joint Council of Energy and Environment Ministers agreed at their meeting of 13 December 1991 that it is necessary, within the Community strategy, to formulate national programmes including strategies and targets for limiting their CO₂ emissions as well as national programmes for limiting other greenhouse gases emissions.

In addition the Commission is required by the Council to make an assessment of national action taken as a whole in relation to the overall Community stabilization objective.

5. On the basis of the expressed political commitments, the Commission submits this proposal for a Decision for a monitoring mechanism of Community CO₂ and progressively other greenhouse gas emissions.

The main purpose of this proposal is to ensure at Community level as appropriate the achievement of the stabilization of CO₂ emissions by the year 2000 at their 1990 level and the limitation of other greenhouse gas emissions. This will be done through the evaluation of Community and national actions.

The proposal is based on four key elements; the national programmes that should be drawn up by the Member States; their evaluation by the Commission in the light of the EC stabilization agreement; the follow-up of the national programme implementation through a data reporting system and the establishment of an inventory concerning greenhouse gas emissions; and taking into account the equitable burden sharing.

Apart from that the proposal has a special provision for the setting-up of a Consultative Committee of Member States representatives.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 130s thereof.

Having regard to the proposal of the Commission.

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament.()

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee.()

Whereas the 1973⁽¹⁾, 1977⁽²⁾, 1983⁽³⁾ European Communities action programmes on the environment stress the importance of the reduction and prevention of atmospheric pollution, and in addition the 1987⁽⁴⁾ action programme emphasizes the importance for Community action to concentrate as a priority on the reduction at source of air pollution;

Whereas the Council Resolution of 16 September 1986⁽⁵⁾ calls for a search for balanced solutions as regards energy and the environment;

Whereas the European Council of 21 June 1989⁽⁶⁾ declares that the Community and its Member States should take proper account in future policy decision of the problem of potential climatic change linked to the greenhouse effect;

Whereas the European Council held at Dublin in June 1990 urged for the adoption as soon as possible of targets and strategies for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases;

Whereas the Council of Energy and Environment Ministers agreed at their meeting on 29 October 1990 that the Community as a whole should stabilize CO₂ emissions in general by the year 2000 at 1990 level;

Whereas CO₂ emissions arise primarily from the burning of fossil fuels;

Whereas the Commission has underlined, in the framework of a Community Strategy to limit carbon dioxide emissions and to improve energy efficiency⁽⁷⁾, the need to set up a mechanism of monitoring and evaluation, in order to ensure that the Community stabilization target is met for the year 2000;

Whereas the Council of Energy and Environment Ministers at their meeting on 13 December 1991 invited the Commission to propose concrete measures arising from the Community strategy and required that such measures should take into account the concept of equitable burden sharing;

(1) O.J. No. C 112, 20.12.1973, p. 1

(2) O.J. No. C. 139, 13.06.1977, p. 1

(3) O.J. No. C 46, 17.02.1983, p. 1

(4) O.J. No. C. 328, 7.12.1987, p. 1

(5) O.J. No. C 241/1, 25.09.1986

(6) O.J. No. C 183/4, 20.07.1989

(7) SEC (91) 1744 Final, 14.10.1989

Whereas Member States need to develop national gross energy related CO₂ emission objectives, in order to ensure the achievement of the Community stabilization target;

Whereas the Commission needs to evaluate whether through the national emission objectives and their evolution the Community stabilization target will be achieved;

Whereas such monitoring and evaluation should be integrated as closely as possible in the existing reviews of energy programmes of Member States, as mentioned in the Council resolution concerning new Community energy policy objectives for 1995⁽⁸⁾;

Whereas the Commission may propose additional Community or national actions for the achievement of the Community stabilization target, for which a simplified procedure should apply.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

EC MONITORING MECHANISM

This Decision establishes a monitoring mechanism of CO₂ emissions in the Member States, in order to ensure at Community level the achievement of the stabilization of CO₂ emissions by the year 2000 at their 1990 level and provide for the progressive establishment of a monitoring mechanism for other greenhouse gases as policies with regard to these develop.

Article 2

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Decision:

- a . "CO₂ emission" means: The discharge of CO₂ into the atmosphere resulting from the burning of fuels.
- b . "Community CO₂ stabilization target" means: The stabilization of the total CO₂ emissions by 2000 at 1990 levels in the Community as a whole.
- c . "national CO₂ emissions objectives" means: The maximum quantity of CO₂ that is expected to be discharged into the atmosphere during a calendar year, by a Member State, according to the provisions of the national programme.
- d . "national programme" means : all the measures envisaged or already taken at a national level to reduce CO₂ emissions, and to limit other greenhouse gas emissions.
- e . "other greenhouse gas emissions" means: The discharge of methane, nitrous oxide, halocarbons, tropospheric ozone precursors (carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds) into the atmosphere from all human activities.

Article 3

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

I. National CO₂ emissions programmes

- a. The Member States shall draw up national CO₂ emissions programmes, including strategies and national CO₂ emissions objectives for limiting their CO₂ emissions, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Community CO₂ stabilization target.
- b. The Member States shall establish and communicate to the Commission, before the end of 1994, national CO₂ emissions objectives covering the years 1996, 1998 and 2000.
- c. The national programmes shall comprise as far as possible :
 - the use of national instruments and actions aiming at increasing energy efficiency and conservation;
 - the use of national instruments and actions aiming at fuel switching towards low or no-carbon containing fuels;
 - the implementation of possible Community legislation and policy, including economic and fiscal instruments;
 - an assessment of the economic impact of the above measures;

II. Additional national programmes

Member States shall also report on policies and measures in order to increase the sequestration of CO₂ emissions and on actions taken to limit the emissions of other greenhouse gases (apart from CO₂), and evaluate the impact of these measures.

Article 4

FIRST EVALUATION OF NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

I. REPORTING AND EVALUATION

- a. Member States shall forward to the Commission the national programmes described in Article 3 to start one year after the entry into force of this Decision.
- b. The Commission shall forward to the other Member States the national programmes received within three months of their reception.
- c. The Commission shall evaluate these programmes in order to examine whether they, in conjunction with the Community action, secure compliance with the Community CO₂ stabilization target, and as appropriate the limitation of other greenhouse gases.
- d. The Commission shall report to the Council and the European Parliament the results of its assessment of the national programmes in relation to the overall Community CO₂ stabilization target and, as appropriate, the limitation of other greenhouse gases within 6 months after the reception of the programmes.

II. ADDITIONAL MEASURES

Depending on the results of the evaluation the Commission may, if necessary, and with due regard to burden sharing, make all appropriate proposals for required additional actions with a view to ensuring the attainment of the Community's CO₂ stabilization target and the limitation of other greenhouse gas emissions. The Council shall take a decision on these proposals by qualified majority after consulting the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

Article 5

INVENTORY AND DATA REPORTING

- a. With the entry into force of this Decision, Member States will report to the Commission their 1990 base year CO₂ emissions on the basis of fuel consumption statistics and Community wide agreed CO₂ emissions factors.
- b. The Commission in cooperation with the Member States shall establish an inventory of CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions in the Community. It will be developed on the basis of existing Community and Member State inventories and take into account progress made on international methods for emissions accounting.
- c. The procedures and methods for the development of the inventory for estimating and reporting CO₂ emissions shall be determined by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 8.
- d. Member States shall each year, not later than (31 July) (from 19..), report to the Commission the data concerning CO₂ emissions of the previous year and emissions of other greenhouse gases, as reliable data and methodology become available.
- e. The Commission shall establish within 6 months of reception a comprehensive report of the data to be transmitted to the Member States.
- f. Member States shall submit to the Commission each year all appropriate information about the implementation of the national programmes, including costs, and inform the Commission at the earliest opportunity of any substantial alteration in their national programmes.

Article 6

EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

- a. The Commission shall establish procedures and methods for the evaluation of the progress made in the implementation of the national programmes in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 8.
- b. This evaluation will be made primarily on the basis of data received under Article 3 and article 5.
- c. The Commission shall report every three years on its own responsibility in the light of the information received under Article 3 and 5 to the Council and the European Parliament on the state of application of this Decision. This report shall address a survey of the progress made and problems encountered in each Member State and in the Community as a whole.

Article 7

CO₂ EMISSION MONITORING AND NATIONAL ENERGY POLICIES REVIEW

The data reporting as described in Article 5, as well as the actions foreseen under Articles 4 and 6 shall be integrated as closely as possible to the review process of national energy policies as defined in Council Resolution 86/C 241/01 of 16 September 1986.

Article 8

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee of an advisory nature composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.
2. The representative of the Commission shall submit to the committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.
3. The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes; in addition, each Member State shall have the right to ask to have its position recorded in the minutes.
4. The Commission shall take the utmost account of the opinion delivered by the committee. It shall inform the committee of the manner in which its opinion has been taken into account.

Article 9

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at ...

For the Council ...

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DOCUMENTS

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