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**Serie miljø, sundhed og forbrugerpolitik nr.
Reihe Umwelt, Gesundheit und Verbraucherpolitik Nr.
Environment, Health and Consumer Policy Series No.
Série environnement, santé publique et
politique de protection des consommateurs n°
Serie Ambiente, sanità e politica dei consumatori n.
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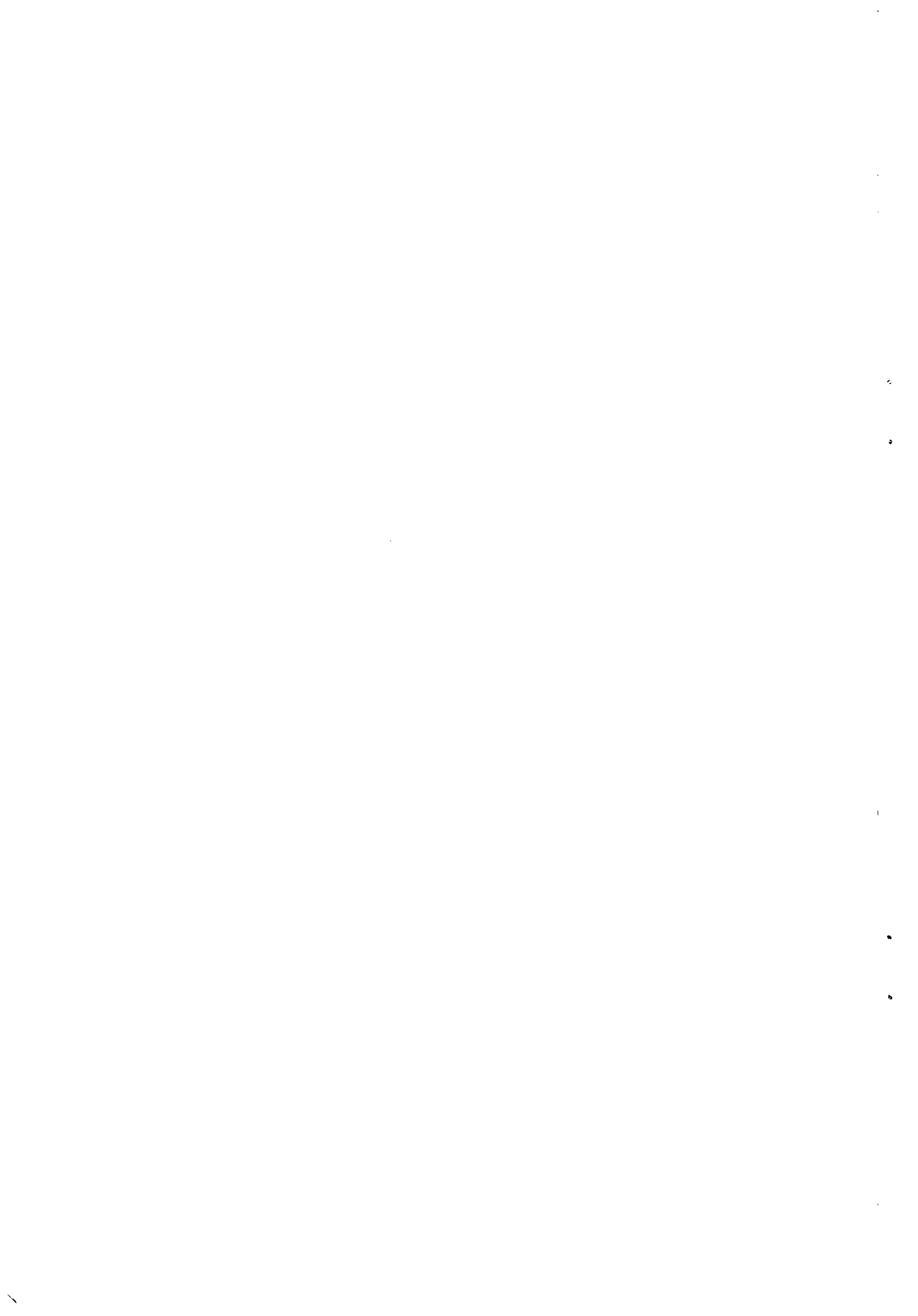
English version

Et Europa – et miljø
Ein Europa – eine Umwelt
One Europe – one environment
Une Europe – un environnement
Una Europa – un ambiente
Één Europa – één leefmilieu

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Members will find attached the text of a manifesto drawn up by the European Environmental Bureau in the context of the impending direct election of the European Parliament.

The European Environmental Bureau which was set up in 1974 is an international organisation which brings together 38 national or regional environmental protection organisations in the Member States of the European Community. In its capacity as a link between member organisations and the European Community it has set itself the task of investigating important environmental problems whose solution demands international cooperation and of realising its concepts of environmental policy within the framework of the European Community.

The financial resources of the European Environmental Bureau are supplied by contributions from its member organisations. In addition it receives subventions from the Commission of the European Community to which it submits its opinions on environmental policy proposals at the Community level.

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The European Parliament as such has not adopted a position on this manifesto, which is communicated to Members purely for information. Only the English and French texts are official.

Manifesto
of the
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU

ONE EUROPE
ONE ENVIRONMENT

Recognising that we have "One Environment" of necessity and that we are building "One Europe" by choice, we have prepared this manifesto as our contribution to the task of ensuring that a united Europe is not built at the expense of our "One Environment". The new European Parliament, with directly elected representatives, will exert an increasing influence over the development of European policies. It is both wise and necessary that the members of this Parliament should be aware, from the very beginning, of the environmental effects of the policies they are considering. We have published this manifesto in order to bring to the attention of all the candidates for election those issues to which the European Environmental Bureau attaches the highest priority and we call upon all candidates to adopt the ideas contained in this document and to make clear to the electors of Europe their own position.

Central to our view of the future development of Europe is the need to rethink the concept of economic growth in order to take account of the major changes in the perception of world problems that has taken place in the past decade.

The old world view of ever expanding population and consumption considered neither non-monetary values nor natural limits. This was recognised by the Heads of Government when they declared in 1972 that "economic expansion is not an end in itself" and that the genius of Europe pays attention to "intangible values and protecting the environment".

Europe, which led the world into an era of industrial progress is now called, not just by geographical circumstance, but by the force of its historical and cultural traditions to take the lead again. It is necessary to regain control over economic, political and technological forces.

Europe should invent a new industrialism, a mature pattern of growth, that will enable its own great population, and those of other regions, to live more fully, yet press more lightly on the planet.

A new model of development, more appropriate to the human needs of both developing and developed worlds, must be conceived and introduced. This model of development should be firmly founded on the following principles:

- that the European environment belongs to all Europeans, living now and yet to be born, and it is the duty of the European Parliament to protect it from destructive exploitation.
- that the European environment is part of the global environment and the European Parliament should thus consider the impact of its policies on the world as a whole, including the Third world.
- that the effective participation by the people of Europe in the formulation of such policies is a precondition of their acceptance and implementation.
- that environmentally acceptable policies and full employment are mutually compatible and equally essential.
- that gross inequities in the distribution of wealth and social services are a barrier to the adoption of environmentally responsible policies.
- that of all threats to the environment, war, in all its forms, is the greatest. It is thus the duty of the European Parliament to use all its powers to prevent war and to refrain from adopting policies which may be the cause of war.

1. Towards a maintenance economy

Europe, whose prosperity has been built on abundant supplies of easily accessible energy and minerals, now appears to be approaching a period of relative materials scarcity. The sooner Europe responds to impending changes in availability, the less painful the transition will be.

Therefore, Europe should adopt as a long-range goal the achievement of a society in which materials are used and reused to maximum advantage with a minimum of resource depletion.

In a mature economy two corporate objectives should be added to the conventional objectives of profitability, full employment, maintenance of essential goods and services and export earnings. These are: resource thrift and the concept of sustainability.

The Community should :

- devise fiscal incentives to encourage the use of recycled raw materials
- invent mechanisms to promote durability in all consumer goods
- encourage the substitution of renewable for non-renewable resources
- develop public awareness of the flow of resources through the economy and the environmental impact of such flows
- promote the creation of small and medium sized firms and exercise more effective control on multi-national firms.

As Europe begins to achieve the measures proposed and environmental goods acquire economic value, so new areas of employment will open up. This trend that has already begun to occur (as shown in the growth of the anti-pollution industry) could be greatly expanded by governmental and Community action. More emphasis should be placed on individual work and skill devoted to high quality rather than throwaway production.

A maintenance economy, by placing less emphasis on the volume of goods produced and by eliminating as far as possible shift work and monotonous work would enhance the standard of living in the form of job enrichment. In an economy where consumer goods do not need constantly to be replaced, there might be less demand for consumption and more for relaxation and leisure. By a mandatory shortening of the working week, Europe could show the world the way of sharing the available work more fairly, to improving the standing of manual work, to avoiding the harsh incidence of unemployment upon certain sectors and to reduce hierarchical differences between all disposable incomes and wealth.

Europe must also recognise that although its population is not increasing as fast as in the rest of the world, each person in Europe consumes more scarce resources than each person in the third world. The European Parliament should therefore not advocate policies which encourage population growth.

2. Agriculture

The Common Agricultural Policy puts emphasis on technological advance, higher productivity, reduction of labour force, economies of scale and greater capitalisation. Security of supply is aimed at but there is no mention of optimising the use of indigenous resources.

A more environmentally desirable agriculture has to be developed using less energy and resulting in better quality products having beneficial effects on health. This means treating agriculture quite differently from an ordinary industry and being prepared to pay for a long-term stability and a number of unquantifiable benefits.

Now that the Community as a whole is almost self-sufficient in most food items, the harmonious development of its regions can be best assured by distributing this self-sufficiency geographically.

Traditionally, agricultural policy has led to extreme specialization, in some cases the over-use of heavy machinery and chemicals with damage to the soil and a wasteful distribution system.

A harmonious development of farm management in the less favoured localities should be promoted, so shifting into the peripheral regions of the Community the interface between agriculture and industry. This could provide a base for a healthy social and economic development and an improved quality of life.

Moreover, it should be recognised that the traditional role of the farmer was not food production alone. Many of the most beautiful parts of Europe owe their scenic attractiveness to the fact that the traditional farmer was both food-producer and caretaker and conserver of the landscape.

Industrialization of agriculture generally now works against landscape conservation. Since generally financial considerations govern the decision towards a more industrial and intensive agriculture, a financial remuneration for the conservational function in less-favoured areas should be seriously considered. Payments of this kind should be available for the conservation of particular landscape features, such as wild moorlands, downlands and hedgerows, where appropriate. This would mean a switch in the subsidizing policy from subsidizing products to subsidizing producers. This would include reforestation in order to control soil erosion. The use of "organic" agricultural techniques should be considered and the Common Agricultural Policy should encourage research into these techniques and leave room for their application in specific areas.

3. Energy

a. Energy in General

It is already the policy of the Community to secure a reliable, flexible supply of energy. This should evolve to make more efficient use of non-renewable coal, oil and gas, and also such renewable sources as solar energy, while harnessing Europe's technological and commercial expertise to do so. A Common Energy Policy must evolve, not by a rigid blueprint, but by a series of sensible measures taken in common. As a first step research into renewable resources should be increased.

Europe should immediately undertake lasting and fundamental measures to conserve energy in all sectors and forms. We must distinguish need from demand and curb needless demand. To this end a Directorate of Energy Conservation should be established within the Commission's Energy Directorate-General.

Emphasis should be placed on heat, the form of energy most required instead of on electricity, and more use made of heat recovery systems and heat pumps. Electricity is wasteful as a source of heat. Economies of scale must be reexamined. Smaller scale systems can more readily extract maximum utility from energy, for instance by supplying heat rather than electricity, and they can be located closer to load centres.

The idea that economic growth and the growth of energy consumption are inevitably linked together must be challenged.

The Community's energy programme should be based on an impact study in which not only short-term economic effects are considered but where the longer-term effects both on the environment and on the structural employment rate and the trade balance play a major role.

b. Nuclear energy

The present and future well-being of mankind is being needlessly endangered by the decisions of governments of the Community to expand the development of nuclear power while many uncertainties persist.

Those governments, institutions and individuals who assert the necessity of nuclear power tend to do so on the basis of a fundamentally mistaken conception of energy policy, which neglects to consider the end uses of energy.

Thermal reactors, which form the heart of the present nuclear programme, pose major unresolved problems of nuclear weapons proliferation, safety, radioactive waste disposal, as well as posing threats to civil liberties.

In order to reach a low energy, non-nuclear future as soon as possible the construction of more nuclear power stations should be postponed until more clarity has been reached as to the risks and as to the desirability and viability of alternative energy strategies. Such pause for discussion will be necessary in order to reach an energy policy that can be implemented with the consensus that is necessary in a democracy. The building of fast breeder reactors, however, should be deferred indefinitely. The Euratom Treaty calls "for the speedy establishment and growth of nuclear industries" and must therefore be amended.

4. Transport

Throughout transport policy making and planning, there must be a recognition of the principle that there are factors (social, environmental, resource scarcity, other use of land, safety) which impose limits, and that personal mobility and freight transport cannot increase indefinitely. Policies should aim to restrain the growth of total traffic rather than accommodate an indefinite increase.

A policy which aims to fulfill the needs of people and communities with least social cost and least environmental impact should:

- reduce dependence on movement;
- give priority to satisfying the needs of those using the simple modes;
- move freight by the least socially disruptive and environmentally damaging mode;
- restrain car traffic in towns;
- reduce the impact of transport by positive discrimination in favour of the least damaging and resource-consuming modes, while positively discriminating against the most extravagant and destructive forms.

This can only be achieved if there are common rules which include charging users of transport the full social and environmental costs that they impose on others.

5. Land use planning and human settlements

The costs of failure to plan the use of land are high, whether they be measured in terms of destroyed ecosystems, unmet human needs, destruction of artistic, historical and cultural heritage, urban decay, suburban sprawl, unnecessary transport or lost revenues.

The tendency of populations to leave rural areas and to concentrate in increasing numbers is threatening human well-being by forming a megalopolis. Special attention should therefore be paid to the human settlements and their quality. The policy of the Community should be aimed at effective but balanced decentralization and regionalization. Moreover, the regional policy of the Community should not be viewed only as an agent of industrial expansion. It must evolve to a new concept of land use planning where environmental and social criteria are taken into account as well as the economic constraints. The development of tourism in particular must not be such that the carrying capacity of a locality is exceeded.

6. Cultural heritage

Apart from its priceless cultural value, Europe's architectural heritage gives to her peoples the consciousness of their common history and common future. Its preservation is, therefore, a matter of vital importance. The architectural heritage includes not only individual buildings of exceptional quality and their surroundings, but also all areas of towns and villages of historic, cultural or social interest, together with their contents. Architectural conservation must be considered, not as a marginal issue, but as a major objective of town and country planning. It must not be forgotten that towns and villages belong to their inhabitants. Therefore, the needed rehabilitation of ancient areas must be conceived and carried out with the effective participation and collaboration of their inhabitants, so as to respect existing social patterns.

7. Conservation of the natural environment

Human survival is intimately related to the whole of nature. We have no right to destroy the natural environment, nor to allow it to decline. This is as much for philosophical and ethical reasons as for purely selfish human considerations.

The natural environment is severely threatened by the industrial and urban expansion and the impact of increasing transport and leisure. It is vital to protect efficiently wetlands and especially places where migratory birds find food and shelter.

Hunting and fishing, zoological parks and the commerce of animals should be strictly controlled. There is a need for immediate action on products based on wildlife (i.e. whales) and against the deliberate destruction of species necessary to the biological equilibrium (foxes, predators, etc...)

The marine environment should not be forgotten. The European seas contain natural resources, renewable or not, of the greatest importance for the future of our populations. These resources should be used taking into account a good management which guarantees their survival.

8. Pollution

People have a right to know what pollutants are put into the air they breathe and into water and into land. Only by access to published registers of emissions can the public become informed of the complexities of pollution control and exert effective pressure for a cleaner environment.

The extra costs of a decent environment are not prohibitive. Pollution prevention should be a matter of good housekeeping. Pollution should be avoided even if the emissions are such that legal standards are not exceeded.

Transfrontier pollution and pollution from traded products - e.g. motor cars - give a particular justification for action at a Community level. But the Community should determine to what extent it is necessary to proceed by common action - e.g. by setting Europe-wide uniform emission standards - and how far differing local circumstances may justify differing solutions in order to maintain a satisfactory environmental quality.

Unilateral measures by Member States can cause distortions - such as factories choosing unsuitable locations simply to avoid more stringent pollution controls in another Member State - and the Community should use its powers to prevent this.

9. Health and environment

Health is much more than the absence of illness. Whereas traditional medical science has made great progress in terms of major medical care (high intensive care, surgery, etc.) and curing illness, emphasis must be placed now on long-term health.

This is possible nowadays by promoting on a large scale natural health measures in the context of preventative medicine and by providing healthy basic food to our population. In fact the industrialisation of agriculture has led to the production of food often lacking in nutritive quality and in which the long-term effects on health are unknown (additives, pesticides, etc.). It is therefore necessary to enlarge the concept of health care by the use of "soft" medical technologies, because of their great potential long-term benefits.

10. Society and decision making

Man made changes of the environment and careless use of resources are generally irreversible. A detailed knowledge of the environmental consequences of an action is an absolute condition before a decision to realise the action can be taken.

However, environmental consequences can only be assessed with the involvement of the people affected, since most environmental effects are unquantifiable. It is therefore essential that the decision making process allows people to express their own views and that these are taken into account. This will require new legal and administrative procedures, assuring the transparency of the decision-making process.

The Environmental Impact Statement procedure should become the heart of environmental decision-making, with ecological mapping as one of the tools.

This implies that:

- the obligation to write an EIS holds for every intended action, both public and private, whose realisation will significantly affect the quality of the human and natural environment;
- the draft EIS discloses the existence and the nature of the proposal at a very early stage, whereby the goals of the action are explicitly formulated and possible alternatives are mentioned, all with their environmental pros and cons, taking into account social, economic, historical and cultural criteria;
- comments on the draft EIS are open to everyone;
- a serious and independent review takes place;
- the final decision and thereby the realisation are prevented as long as reasonable doubts exist with regard to the correctness and/or completeness of the EIS and/or the certainty to reach the goal along the presented lines.

A rapid introduction of the EIS procedure at all levels, both for projects and programmes, is of vital importance and should be strongly promoted.

This is especially true for any project or programme which may reasonably be expected to cause transfrontier pollution or to have an adverse effect on the environment in a global common area.

11. Conclusion

We are citizens from the nine countries of the Community. We differ widely in political opinion, in religion and in cultural experience. But we share a common hope and a common belief. Our hope is that a "One Europe" will provide a new impetus to the care and protection of the environment. Our belief is that we can only achieve an environment worthy of Europe if considerations such as those we have outlined are allowed to shape fundamentally the future development of European policies.

To give effect to these ideas we recommend the Parliament:

1. To promote the amendment of Article 2 of the Treaty of Rome and of Article 1 of the Euratom Treaty in order to provide a clear legal basis for environmental policies.
2. To establish a Parliamentary Committee exclusively concerned with environmental matters.
3. To use its powers of initiative to propose environmental measures.
4. To make available existing information on environmental issues already in its possession, and to publish future reports.

