

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Draft Council resolution on a programme to reduce pollution
and nuisances and to safeguard the natural environment

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The Council of the European Communities,

considering the tasks of the European Communities defined in the Treaties establishing the Communities;

considering in particular that the task of the European Economic Community is "to promote throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities, a continuous and balanced expansion, an increased stability, an accelerated raising of the standard of living and closer relations between its Member States" (Art. 2 of the EEC Treaty);

whereas the qualitative improvement of living conditions and the safeguarding of natural resources, especially by effective pollution control, is today a vital aspect of this task;

whereas the provisions necessary to combat pollution cannot fail to have in themselves or through their disparities important economic consequences and a direct incidence on the functioning of the common market, in particular by creating distortions of competition, obstacles to trade and inequalities regarding investment;

whereas the protection and improvement of the environment must increasingly be incorporated into the implementation of the common policies, in particular the agricultural policy;

agrees:

- 1) that to combat pollution and nuisances effectively and at the same time ensure the proper functioning of the common market, it is necessary to carry out the following action at Community level:
 - (a) to make a common objective evaluation of the risks resulting from pollution and nuisances to man and his surroundings;
 - (b) to harmonize methods of measuring pollution and nuisances and, if possible, standardize them;
 - (c) to take common measures with regard to products and economic activities causing pollution and nuisances (industry, agriculture, power production, transport), with regard to certain special forms of pollution (waste, noise) and areas of common interest (international river basins, sea coasts, frontier regions);
 - (d) to lay down common rules on the apportionment of the costs resulting from pollution control;

(e) to define or harmonize methods of evaluating and ways of financing these costs and economic incentives for protection and improvement of the environment;

(f) to harmonize and reinforce verification of the application of the regulations on environmental protection and measures designed to punish violations;

2) that the common agricultural policy must help to meet the new need for places of recreation and relaxation in natural surroundings felt by the industrial society and to safeguard the natural environment;

3) that the adoption of a programme to reduce pollution and nuisance and safeguard the natural environment—hereinafter called “the programme”—divided into several stages is the most suitable way of attaining these objectives, since a programme of this kind allows coordination of the efforts to be made in this field by the various Community bodies and by Member States;

4) that modifications may be introduced during implementation of this programme, in particular to take account of the commitments made by the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting in Council regarding information to the Commission with a view to possible harmonization of urgent measures concerning the environment;

5) that the Commission’s proposals on plant and food products and in the veterinary and animal production field mentioned in point III of the attached programme should be examined by the Council as quickly as possible so that it can act on these proposals before 31 December 1972;

notes that the Commission undertakes to send it:

1) before 31 December 1973, suitable proposals on the subjects for action listed in point I of the attached programme;

2) before 1 July 1972, two draft directives on hill farming and reafforestation incentives;

undertakes:

1) to act before 30 June 1974 on the Commission’s proposals in point I of the programme;

2) to act before 31 December 1972 on the Commission’s proposals in points II and III of the programme;

3) to release the funds and staff required by the Commission to carry out the necessary studies and work.

Programme to reduce pollution and nuisances and to safeguard the natural environment

I. *Reduction of pollution and nuisances*

Studies and work to be carried out by the Commission with a view to proposals to be submitted before 31.12.1973. Council decision before 30.6.1974.

1. *Objective evaluation of the risks resulting from pollution*

Definition of the criteria and guide levels and harmonization or adoption of joint measurement methods for the following pollutants:

- *water pollutants*¹: hydrocarbons
the following micropollutants: mercury, cadmium, chromium, arsenic and selenium and their compounds
chemical compounds found in pesticides
- *air pollutants*: sulphur dioxide and particles in suspension
lead and its compounds
nitrogen oxides and photochemical oxidisers
carbon monoxide
- *noise pollution*: physiological effects of noise on the human organism at different intensities and durations.

2. *Specific action regarding fresh water pollution*

- (a) Preparation of quality objectives for various parts of the river systems;
- (b) Definition of quality criteria for drinking water, water for food and water intended for agriculture and the watering of livestock;
- (c) organization and development of technical exchanges between national systems for the inspection and control of water pollution.

3. *Specific action regarding air pollution*

- (a) Ways of preparing quality objectives for air in urban areas, industrial concentrations and areas for leisure and relaxation;
- (b) Organization and development of technical exchanges between national systems for the inspection and control of air pollution.

¹ The criteria and guide levels will be determined in accordance with the different uses or classifications of water.

4. *Specific action regarding industrial activities*

Action concerning the paper and pulp industry, using the results of the OECD work:

- the motor industry;
- the chemical industries;
- tanneries;
- the food industries (sugar mills and starch factories).

5. *Specific action regarding power production*

Action concerning the composition of hydrocarbons and oil refining installations.

6. *Specific action regarding certain areas of common interest*

- Measures concerning marine pollution by waste from the shore;
- Action on the discharge or dumping at sea of industrial waste in the waters around the Community;
- Organization of the control of water pollution in frontier areas;
- Institution as a joint undertaking of a European Agency for the Rhine Basin.

7. *Action designed to ensure application and effective observance of the limits set*

Approximation and strengthening of regulations on the verification of the application of pollution control measures and repressive measures against polluters.

8. *Action regarding waste*

Measures to be taken with regard to:

- packagings of consumer products;
- certain residues containing petroleum and tar;
- radioactive waste.

9. *Economic and statistical aspects*

(a) Adoption of common principles on the apportionment of the costs of combatting pollution and ways of applying these principles;

(b) Common guidelines on ways of financing pollution control;

(c) Harmonization of the methods of evaluating the costs of pollution control;

(d) Harmonization of economic incentives for environmental protection and improvement.

The Council undertakes to decide on the Commission's proposals on these subjects for action before 30 June 1974.

II. *Safeguarding the natural environment*

Draft directives to be submitted by the Commission before 1 July 1972. Council decisions before 31 December 1972.

- Hill farming.
- Reafforestation.

III. *Harmonization of legislation submitted to the Council on plant and food products and in the veterinary and animal production field*

Decisions of the Council before 31 December 1972:

- First draft Council regulation on the fixing of maximum contents for pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables (submitted to the Council on 28.11.1968 - JO C 139 of 28.12.1968).
- Draft Council regulation on the fixing of maximum contents for undesirable substances and products in animal feedingstuffs (submitted to the Council on 1.2.1971 - JO C 34 of 14.4.1971).
- Draft Council directive on the approximation of Member State legislations on emulsifying, stabilizing, thickening and gelling agents authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption (submitted to the Council on 21.2.1969 - JO C 54 of 28.4.1969).
- Draft Council directive on the approximation of Member State legislations on cocoa and chocolate (submitted to the Council on 23.7.1963 - supplement to EEC Bulletin 8-1963).
- Draft Council regulation on production and trade in sugars (saccharoses), glucose syrup and dextrose (submitted to the Council on 3.12.1969 - JO C 1 of 6.1.1970).
- Draft Council directive on the approximation of Member State legislations on dietetic foods and
- Draft Council directive on the approximation of Member State legislations on low-sodium dietetic foods (submitted to the Council respectively on 15.4.1969 and 19.1.1970 - JO C 66 of 3.6.1969 and JO C 20 of 14.2.1970).
- Draft Council directive on jams, marmalades, fruit jellies and chestnut puree (submitted to the Council on 25.6.1965 - JO 152 of 11.9.1965).

- Draft Council directive on the approximation of Member State legislations on meat extract, yeast extract, protein extracts, flavourings for soup and other dishes, meat-based soups, stocks and sauces (submitted to the Council on 31.10.1968 - JO C 136 of 19.12.1968).
- Draft Council directive on the approximation of Member State legislations on farinaceous food products (submitted to the Council on 7.11.1968 - JO C 136 of 19.12.1968).
- Draft Council regulation on production and trade in fruit juices and similar products (submitted to the Council on 7.2.1969 - JO C 39 of 22.3.1969).
- Draft Council regulation on production and marketing of margarine (submitted to the Council on 28.11.1968 - JO C 137 of 20.12.1968).
- Draft Council regulation on production and marketing of butter (submitted to the Council on 14.6.1968 - JO C 71 of 17.7.1969).
- Draft Council regulation on production and marketing of honey (submitted on 9.3.1970 - JO C 69 of 11.6.1970).
- Draft Council regulation on production and marketing of tinned milks for human consumption (submitted on 6.2.1970 - JO C 52 of 30.4.1970).
- Draft Council directive on the approximation of Member State legislations on soft drinks (submitted on 13.7.1970 - JO C 55 of 9.5.1970).
- Draft Council directive on health problems and health regulations on imports of cattle and pigs and fresh meat from third countries (submitted to the Council on 20.9.1965 - JO 56 of 26.3.1966).
- Draft Council regulation on problems concerning health regulations for intra-Community trade in fresh meat (submitted to the Council on 19.2.1970 - JO C 31 of 14.3.1970).
- Draft EEC Council regulation on health problems in intra-Community trade in meat-based products and draft EEC Council regulation on problems concerning health regulations for meat-based products (submitted to the Council on 25.3.1971 - JO C 59 of 11.6.1971).
- Draft Council regulations on the health conditions and health regulations with which full raw milk must comply as a raw material for the preparation of heat-processed milk and its derivatives and draft Council regulation on health problems concerning the production and marketing of heat-processed milk (submitted to the Council on 4.2.1971 - JO C 34 of 14.4.1971).