



european community

NEWS

April 2, 1993
No. 15/93

TOP EC ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS TO MEET WITH U.S. COUNTERPARTS IN WASHINGTON

Three top European Community environment officials will be in Washington April 5-6 for first meetings with high-level US Administration officials on environment matters.

Danish Environment Minister Svend Auken, in his capacity as President of the EC Council of Environment Ministers during Denmark's term in the Council Presidency, will lead the EC delegation which also includes EC Commissioner for the Environment and Nuclear Safety Ioannis Paleokrassas, and his Director-General at the EC Commission, Laurens Jan Brinkhorst.

They will meet April 5 with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Carol Browner followed by meetings with Special Assistant to the President for the Environment Katie Mc Ginty, and Senior Director for Global Environment Affairs in the National Security Council, Eileen Claussen.

The meetings are expected to provide an opportunity for EC-US discussions on a broad range of environmental issues including the concept of an energy and environment tax. In mid-1992, the EC Commission proposed an energy tax whose implementation is subject to a "conditionality clause", meaning that it can only take effect as part of a worldwide effort. The Commission proposal calls for the freezing of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the EC at 1990 levels by the year 2000. CO₂ is believed to be a major cause of the so-called "greenhouse effect" which causes global warming. The EC proposal must be approved by the Council of Ministers.

At 3.00 p.m. on April 6 at the National Press Club, 14th and F Streets NW, the EC officials will give a joint press conference. Members of the press are invited to attend.

Biographical Notes

Svend Auken

Minister for the Environment (Denmark)

Acting President of the EC Council of Environment Ministers (January to June, 1993)

Mr. Auken was appointed Minister for the Environment in January 1993. He has also served as Minister for Labor from 1977 to 1982. A member of the Danish Folketing (Parliament) since 1971, he has chaired the Parliamentary Politics-Economics Committee (1992-1993), the Parliamentary Physical Planning Committee (1975-1977), and the Parliamentary Labor-Market Committee (1975-1977). He is a member of the Social Democratic Party, and has been its spokesperson since 1983, its Chairman (1987-1992) and its Vice-Chairman (1985 and 1977-1983). Throughout his political career, Mr. Auken has been actively involved in labor relations and policy. He was a member of the Economic Council of the Labor Movement (1977 and 1985-1992) and a member of the Executive Committee of the Danish Federation of Trade Unions (1977 and 1983-1992). Mr. Auken has also been a Professor of Political Science at Arhus University's Institute of Political Science (1969 and 1973-1989). Birth date: May 24, 1943.

../..

Office of Press and Public Affairs, EC Delegation

Washington: 2100 M Street NW 7th Floor Washington DC 20037 / Telephone (202) 862-9500 / Fax (202) 429-1766

New York: 3 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza 305 E 47th Street New York NY 10017 / Telephone (212) 371-3804 / Fax (212) 688-1013

Ioannis Paleokrassas

EC Commissioner for Environment, Nuclear Safety, Civil Protection and Fisheries

Before joining the EC Commission in January 1993, Mr. Paleokrassas served in the Greek Government as Minister for Industry, Energy, Technology and Commerce from August 1992. He was also Minister of Finance from 1990 to 1992. A member of the Nea Dimokratia political party, he served, while his party was out of office (1981-1990), as Secretary General of the Parliamentary Group, Chairman of the Financial Committee of the Party, and Chairman of its Parliamentary Group on the National Economy. In the government of Mr. Karamanlis, he served as Minister of Coordination (1981), Alternate Minister for Coordination (1980) and Under Secretary at the same ministry (1977-80). In 1978, he was elected as a Deputy of the Greek Parliament. A graduate of the London School of Economics, Mr. Paleokrassas began his career in business and worked in shipping, management, planning and consulting. Birth Date: March 27, 1934.

Laurens Jan Brinkhorst

Director-General for the Environment

Mr. Brinkhorst became Director-General for Environment, Civil Protection and Nuclear Safety in January 1987. He was Head of the Commission's Tokyo Delegation between 1982 and 1987. A native of the Netherlands, Mr. Brinkhorst also served in the Dutch Government. He was Parliamentary leader for the Democracy 66 political party between 1981 and 1982, and Member of the Dutch Parliament from 1977 to 1982, while he was also party Vice-Chairman. He began his career in politics as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the Dutch Government from 1973 to 1977. A graduate in law of the University of Leiden (the Netherlands) and in politics from Columbia University (New York), Mr. Brinkhorst lectured in European and international law at several Dutch universities between 1962 and 1973. He has also held other positions including Chairman of the OECD conference on noise abatement (1981) and Editor of the Common Market Law Review (1965-1973). He is married and has two children. Birth date: March 18, 1937.

Press Contacts: Ella Krucoff
(202) 862-9540

Maeve O'Beirne
(202) 862-9549