

PRESS RELEASE

12364/80 (Presse 192)

676th Council meeting

- Environment -

Brussels, 12 December 1980

President: Mr Josy BARTHEL,  
Minister for the Environment of the  
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



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:

Mr Erik HOLST Minister for the Environment  
Mr Holger LAVESEN State Secretary,  
Ministry of the Environment

Germany:

Mr Gerhart Rudolf BAUM Federal Minister of the Interior

France:

Mr Michel D'ORNANO Minister for the Environment  
Mr François DELMAS State Secretary to the Minister  
for the Environment and the  
Quality of Life

Ireland:

Mr Gerard CONNOLLY Minister of State at the  
Department of the Environment

Italy:

Mr Pier Luigi ROMITA Minister for Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr L. GINJAAR

Minister for Health and the  
Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr Marcus FOX

Parliamentary Under Secretary  
of State,  
Department of the Environment

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

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The following also attended as observers:

Greece:

Mr Antoine EXARCHOS

Deputy Permanent Delegate

Mr N. GEROULANOS

Director-General at the  
Ministry of the Environment

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MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARDS OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

The Council held an exchange of views on a number of questions in connection with the Directive on the major accident hazards of certain industrial activities <sup>(1)</sup> which had remained unresolved at its previous meeting.

With regard to the question of informing the population and the procedure for any information and consultation between Member States on transfrontier hazards, **after discussion in depth**, the Council examined elements likely to provide a basis for a solution on which all delegations might later reach agreement. Given the nature and importance of the question, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to seek a balanced and satisfactory solution to this problem so that the Council could take a formal decision in this connection at its next meeting on environmental questions.

IMPORTS OF WHALE PRODUCTS

Following a detailed exchange of views, the Council recorded its agreement on the Regulation on common rules for imports of whale products.

Under this Regulation all imports of the products in question into the Community after 1 January 1982 will be subject to permit and no import permit will be issued for products intended for commercial purposes.

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<sup>(1)</sup> See Press release 8279/80 (Presse 99) of 30.VI and 1.VII.80.

RE-USE OF WASTE PAPER AND THE USE OF RECYCLED PAPER

Following an exchange of views on the re-use of waste paper and the use of recycled paper, the Council recorded its agreement in principle - subject to further study of the question in the light of the European Parliament's Opinion - on a Recommendation suggesting that Member States define and implement policies to promote the use of recycled paper and board made from waste paper and in particular

- = encourage the use of recycled and recyclable paper and board, especially in national administrations, public bodies and those national official services which can set an example;
- = encourage, where feasible, the use of recycled paper and board containing a high percentage of mixed waste paper;
- = re-examine in the light of recent technological advances the existing specifications for paper products which restrict, for reasons other than adequacy of a product for its purpose, the re-use of waste paper and the use of recycled paper and board;
- = implement programmes of consumer and manufacturer education to promote paper and board products made from recycled paper and board;
- = develop and promote uses for waste paper other than as a raw material for the manufacture of paper and board;
- = encourage the use of products (inks, glues, etc.) which do not preclude the subsequent recycling of paper and board.

MOTOR VEHICLE EXHAUST GASES

On the basis of a memorandum from the German delegation, the Council held a policy discussion on the situation as regards motor vehicle exhaust gases.

This short discussion concentrated on the standards accepted in the context of the ECE Agreements in Geneva and the prospects for more stringent medium-term standards within the Community.

The President concluded by referring to the progress which had been made in standards for exhaust gases within both the Community and the ECE and requested the Commission to submit the proposals required to implement the provisions adopted in Geneva within the Community.

The Council also took note of the German delegation's suggestions on the prospect of a medium-term reduction (1985) and asked all the delegations to provide the Commission with all the relevant information in preparation for possible proposals in this area.

DISCHARGES OF MERCURY

The Council held a substantive discussion of the proposal for a Directive on the limit values and quality objectives for discharges of mercury by the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry, the first Directive implementing the principles adopted in basic Directive 76/464/EEC. The latter Directive advocates a dual approach in this area whereby either uniform Community emission standards or quality objectives may be applied.

The Council's discussion enabled it to identify the major questions yet to be resolved, in particular that of the arrangements to be laid down for new plants in those Member States which used the quality objectives system.

In conclusion, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to give further detailed examination to the Directive in question, in particular in the light of the comments made by the delegations during the discussion, in preparation for a Council decision on the matter at a future meeting.



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

An exchange of views took place on six international conventions on the environment - the Geneva Convention (on transboundary air pollution), the Strasbourg Convention (on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats), the Bonn Convention (on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals), the Barcelona Protocol (combat against pollution of the Mediterranean by oil), the Bonn Agreement (combat against pollution of the North Sea) and the Oslo Convention (on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping from ships and aircraft) - which have been before the Council for some time.

Following this discussion, the Council recorded its agreement in principle on conclusion by the Community of the Geneva and Strasbourg Conventions. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the texts of Decisions on the conclusion of these Conventions so that the Council could adopt them formally at a forthcoming Council meeting.

The Council also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to seek a solution to the questions still outstanding as regards the Bonn Convention, the Barcelona Protocol, the Bonn Agreement and the Oslo Convention.

VARIOUS STATEMENTS

The Council took note of the following statements, some of which were accompanied by replies or comments from other delegations and the Commission:

- = on the implementation of Council Directive No 76/464/EEC of 4 May 1976, on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community (Commission statement);
- = on the results of the senior officials' meeting on the future of the Communities' environmental policy (Commission statement);
- = on discharge into the North Sea of sulphuric acids resulting from the production of titanium dioxide (statement by the German delegation);
- = on pollution caused by cadmium (statement by the Danish delegation);
- = on chlorofluorocarbons (Commission statement).

## VARIOUS DECISIONS

### 1980 and 1981 budgets

The Council adopted draft supplementary budget No 2 for the 1980 financial year which will be forwarded forthwith to the European Parliament. Following the deliberations of the European Council on 1 and 2 December, this draft budget allocates 40 MEUA for emergency Community aid to the victims of the earthquake in Italy and contains an adjustment in Social Fund payment appropriations (60 MEUA).

The Council also adopted draft letter of amendment No 3 to the draft General Budget of the European Communities for 1981 opening a special heading dealing with the annual servicing of the interest rebate for exceptional loans to Italy, together with an entry of a provisional appropriation of 20 MEUA for this purpose; the Council should state its views on the substance of this action in the very near future.

### Miscellaneous decision

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations implementing Decisions No 1/80 and No 2/80 of the EEC-Morocco Co-operation Council, derogating from the rules of origin in the Co-operation Agreement with Morocco as regards carpets and certain textile products.

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NOTE BIO (80) 514) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AUX ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

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CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT DU 12 DECEMBRE 1980 (CHEVALLARD)

LE CONSEIL QUI S'OUVRIRA DEMAIN A 10H A UN ORDRE DU  
JOUR CHARGE.

IL POURRAIT MARQUER DES PROGRES DANS LA POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE  
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT.

LE SUJET PLUS SENSIBLE EST CELUI CONCERNANT LA DIRECTIVE SUR  
LES RISQUES D'ACCIDENTS MAJEURS DANS CERTAINES ACTIVITES

INDUSTRIELLES ('DIRECTIVE SEVESO')

LE CONSEIL DOIT REVENIR SUR LE POINT QUI A BLOQUE LA DECISION  
SUR CETTE DIRECTIVE LORS DU DERNIER CONSEIL, A SAVOIR DE  
L'INFORMATION TRANSFRONTIERE (VOIR BIO (80) 273 (SUITE 2 ET  
FIN DU 1.7.1980.)

AUTRE SUJET DU CONSEIL EST L'INTERDICTION D'IMPORTATION  
DE PRODUITS ISSUS DES CETACES (VOIR IP (80) 108 DU 29.4.80)

LE CONSEIL POURRAIT ADOPTER LE REGIME COMMUN INTERDISANT LES IM-  
PORTATIONS DE CES PRODUITS AFIN DE FAVORISER LA PROTECTION  
DES BALEINES.

REUTILISATION DES VIEUX PAPIERS (VOIR P-36 (1980)

LE CONSEIL POURRAIT ADOPTER CETTE RACCOMANDATION  
QUI REPRESENTERAIT LE PREMIER PAS VERS UNE POLITIQUE DE  
REUTILISATION DES VIEUX PAPIERS.

REJETS DE MERCURE DANS L'EAU

LE CONSEIL DOIT DELIBERER SUR CETTE PROPOSITION DE DIRECTIVE  
QUI SERAIT LA PREMIERE MIS EN OEUVRE DE LA DIRECTIVE CADRE  
76/464 SUR LES REJETS DES SUBSTANCES DANGEREUSES DANS LE  
MILIEU AQUATIQUE.

CONVENTIONS INTERNATIONALES

LE CONSEIL DOIT SE PRONONCER SUR L'ADHESION DE  
LA COMMUNAUTE A CERTAINES CONVENTIONS INTERNATIONALES EN MATIERE  
D'ENVIRONNEMENT.

LES DIFFICULTES EN CE SENS SUBSISTENT DU COTE DANOIS.  
GAMZ D'ECHAPPEMENT. DES VEHICULES A MOTEUR

A LA DEMANDE DE LA DELEGATION ALLEMANDE LE CONSEIL FERA LE////

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CONSEIL LE POINT SUR LES TRAVAUX ENGAGES A CE SUJET ■■■  
ET SUR LES INITIATIVES EVENTUELLEMENT A PRENDRE POUR RENFOR-  
CER LA DISCIPLINE COMMUNAUTAIRE A CE SUJET.

RENDEZ VOUS DE MIDI DU 11.XII.80

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MATERIEL DISTRIBUE

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CENTRALE SOLAIRE EN SICILE (IP (80)322  
RESUME DU DISCOURS DE M. DAVIGNON A LA JOURNEE ■■■D' INFORMATION  
SUR LA TELEMATIQUE ET LE COMMERCE  
SEMINAIRE POUR LES CONTROLEURS NATIONAUX DES DEPENSES DU  
FEOGA (IP(80)320)  
BULLETIN PETROLIER DE LA COMMISSION N. 76 (IP(80)316)  
DISCOURS DE M. JENKINS AU ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTE■RNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS A LONDRES  
CALENDRIER DE M. THORN.

AMITIES,  
GIANCARLO CHEVALLARD COMEUR  
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NOTE BIO (80) 514 (SUITE 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AUX ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

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CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT (CHEVALLARD)

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LES TRAVAUX ONT ETE JUSQU'ICI CONSTRUCTIFS DANS LA MESURE OU:  
A. PROTECTION DES BALEINES

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LE REGLEMENT A ETE ADOPTE. L'INTERDICTION D'IMPORTATION DE  
PRODUITS ISSUS DES CETACES ENTRERA EN VIGUEUR LE 1ER JANVIER  
1982.

A REMARQUER QUE, APRES LES ETATS UNIS, LA COMMUNAUTE EST LA  
SEULE PUISSANCE QUI A ETABLI UN TEL REGLEMENT. IL  
S'AGIT DONC D'UNE CONTRIBUTION A LA CONSERVATION DES BALEINES.

B. REUTILISATION DES VIEUX PAPIERS

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UN ACCORD DE PRINCIPLE A ETE REALISE SUR LA RECOMMANDATION EN  
LA MATIERE.

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C. DIRECTIVE ''SEVESO''

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UN ACCORD S'EST DEGAGE SUR LE PRINCIPLE DE PREVOIR UNE  
INFORMATION TRANSFRONTIERE.

CET ACCORD SERA FORMALISE DANS UN TEXTE AU COURS DES PROCHAINS  
MOIS A LA LUMIERE AUSSI DES TRAVAUX QUI SERONT LANCER POUR  
REGLEMENTER D'UNE FACON GENERALE ET HORIZONTALE  
LES QUESTIONS DE POLLUTION TRANSFRONTIERE.  
(DICTEE PAR TELEPHONE).

MANUEL SANTARELLI  
PORTE-PAROLE F.F.

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NOTE BIO 514 (80) (SUITE 2 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AUX ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

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CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT (CHEVALLARD)

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AUCUNE AUTRE DECISION N'A ETE PRISE.

TOUS LES AUTRES POINTS A L'ORDRE DU ■■JOUR ONT ETE RENVOYES  
AU COREPER.

FIN

AMITIES,

MANUEL SANTARELLI

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MANUEL SANTARELLI

