

[REDACTED]

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

556th meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Brussels, 18/19 December 1978

President: Mr Gerhardt BAUM,
Federal Minister for the Interior
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr L. GIRJAAR

Minister for Health and the
Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr Denis HOWELL

Minister of State,
Department of the Environment

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

o

o

o

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Breaking with tradition, the Council opened its meeting with a general political policy debate on the common environment policy, basing itself in particular on the statement made on 30 May 1978 by the French Minister for the Environment and the Quality of Life ⁽¹⁾. The Council also had before it the Commission communication of December 1978 concerning, inter alia, the place and role of a preventive policy for the environment in a balanced development of economic activities within the whole of the Community.

This exchange of views, which dealt in particular with the general aspects of elaborating a common environment policy, gave all the Ministers a chance to say how they viewed a common environment policy, to underline their priorities and to state their more specific wishes.

Concluding the debate, the President summarized the discussions, drawing particular attention to the interdependence of a healthy environment policy and industrial and employment policies. Due allowance must in fact be made at the earliest opportunity for the impact of industrial development on the environment and for the employment prospects afforded by a policy to improve the environment.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 677/78 (Presse 72) of 30 May 1978.

The President also stressed that it was important to:

- continue to develop common principles in this central field, on the basis of procedures already existing at national level;
- carry out a more detailed examination of the possibilities afforded by a sectoral approach to environmental questions;
- encourage the use of clean technologies which consume the least possible amount of non-recoverable resources and the development of recycling processes;
- pay particular attention to the contribution of a common environment policy to a more comprehensive land and sea utilization policy;
- promote the study of a rational policy on waste, geared to the market;
- monitor the economic effects of the various aids in this sector.

In conclusion, the President called upon the Commission to draw up a report on these various aspects, in order to facilitate further work by the Council; he also stressed that the Ministers would like to meet more regularly for such discussions, as the day's proceedings had proved to be so fruitful.

METHODS OF EVALUATING THE COST OF POLLUTION CONTROL TO INDUSTRY

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Recommendation regarding methods of evaluating the cost of pollution control to industry.

The aim of this Recommendation is to enable the local and national authorities of the Member States, and the Community, to obtain comparative data on the costs of pollution control in industrial sectors, through technical studies to identify the various factors or characteristics of production techniques which are in practice likely to give rise to considerable cost differences compared with other, similar, processes of pollution control.

Making reference to the definitions in the European System of National Accounts (ESA) as published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities in 1970, the Recommendation provides for the collation of cost data relating to the following areas:

Investment costs (new or periodic)

- (i) Expenditure on the construction or acquisition of plant and equipment;
- (ii) Expenditure on the construction or acquisition of buildings;
- (iii) Expenditure on the acquisition of land and/or the market value of land already owned;
- (iv) Expenditure on improvements;
- (v) Expenditure on loss of output during transition.

Running costs

- (vi) Expenditure on labour;
- (vii) Expenditure on energy;
- (viii) Expenditure on materials other than energy;
- (ix) Expenditure on services;
- (x) Expenditure on rents;
- (xi) Expenditure on repairs.

Details accompanying these cost data should include the following information:

- (a) The market value of materials recovered because of the pollution control plant in question, irrespective of whether such materials are sold or used internally, and, where appropriate, a financial assessment of other factors entailing a reduction in costs;
- (b) The exact levels of the values of emissions by the relevant production plant in a specified time-period both before and after introduction of the pollution control measure to which the costs refer;
- (c) The annual production capacity and the annual production volume of the process to which the pollution control costs refer.

Any other data may be given separately and could, if appropriate, accompany the reports on the results of the studies carried out in this field, which the Member States will endeavour, wherever possible, to forward to the Commission.

PERSISTENT ORGANO-CHLORINE COMPOUNDS

The Council noted the Commission communication concerning the objective evaluation of the risks to human health from pollution by certain persistent organo-chlorine compounds and the various delegations' comments on the matter. This communication is in fact an interim report on the work carried out by the Commission, under the Programme of action on the environment of 22 November 1973, in the field of organo-chlorine compounds.

NOISE

The Council also noted the Commission communication on the determination of criteria for noise.

FLUOROCARBONS

The Council also took note of the report by the German delegation on the results of the International Conference on Fluorocarbons, held at Munich from 6 to 8 December 1978.

WOOD PULP INDUSTRY

The Council held a detailed exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive on the reduction of water pollution caused by wood pulp mills in the Member States.

The discussion enabled the delegations to state their concern regarding many aspects of this proposal and in particular to look into the implications of the so-called "parallel" approach, namely the application of either quality objectives or emission standards.

As all the delegations recognized the value of a Directive in this field, the President was able to note the existence of the positive attitude necessary for the re-opening of discussions and in conclusion the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to give further attention to the dossier, with a view to drafting a text which might meet with the approval of all delegations at the next Council meeting on the environment.

PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF SEA POLLUTION

In the context of an exchange of views on safety at sea, in particular following the wreck of the Amoco Cadiz, and on the prevention and reduction of sea pollution, the Council agreed in principle to decisions on

- the authorization to be given to the Commission to negotiate the Community's accession to the Bonn Agreement of 9 June 1969 for co-operation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil

- the conclusion of the protocol to the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, of 16 February 1976, concerning co-operation in combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the necessary texts so that a formal decision could be taken as soon as possible.

DUMPING OF WASTE AT SEA

The Council agreed in principle to the recommendation on Community accession to the Oslo Convention of 15 February 1972 for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft and to the authorization for the Commission to negotiate this accession.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the necessary text so that a formal decision could be taken as soon as possible.

PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER

The Council held a detailed discussion of the Directive on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances.

The aim of this Directive is to improve the protection of groundwater by introducing a system of prior national authorization for all discharges of dangerous substances - appearing on "grey" and "black" lists - which are likely to cause pollution. Particular provisions apply to discharges affecting a transfrontier aquifer, whereby there is a consultation procedure before authorization is granted by the national authorities concerned.

The Directive also makes provision for a system of exchange of information at Community level, both on the authorizations granted by the national authorities and on hydrogeological conditions and the results of the monitoring and inspection operations carried out.

Following its discussions, the Council noted that the breadth of the problems still outstanding made further examination essential and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue studying this matter in preparation for discussion at the next Council meeting.

WATER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The Council, continuing the discussions of December 1976 and 14 June 1977, agreed in principle to the Directive relating to the quality of water for human consumption.

This Directive lays down "binding" and "guide" parameters for numerous factors contributing to the pollution of water and listed in the Annexes to the Directive concerning factors which are organoleptic, physico-chemical, undesirable in excessive quantities, toxic and microbiological and concerning the minimum required concentration for softened drinking water.

The Directive also provides for models of standard analyses and an information system between the Member States and the Commission on the outcome of regular monitoring to be carried out by the Member States, which have 5 years within which to comply with its provisions.

BIRD CONSERVATION

Following a full exchange of views the Council approved the Directive on bird conservation ⁽¹⁾.

The purpose of the Directive is the conservation of numerous species of birds by means of special protection for certain habitats and limitation of the species which may be hunted and marketed, together with prohibition of certain means of hunting and capture.

It lays down a list of 24 species which may be hunted in all the Member States of the Community. Each Member State will also draw up a supplementary national list relating to its own territory; the total number of species which may be hunted must not exceed the 72 species listed in the Annex to the Directive.

The marketing of 26 species in all is authorized, 7 of which may be marketed in all the Member States and 10 others only in those Member States whose own national legislation so permits. The Commission will make a study of certain aspects of the marketing of the 9 other species which may in principle be marketed, in order to determine, no later than 4 months before the entry into force of the Directive, whether these species should be added to the list of 10 species which may be marketed in the Member States which so wish.

⁽¹⁾ See press release 1473 (Presse 164) of 12.XII.77.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Transport policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Decisions:
 - concerning the collection of information on the activities of carriers participating in cargo liner traffic in certain areas of operation
 - concerning the adoption by certain Member States of the European Economic Community of an Additional Protocol to the revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine of 17 October 1868 as it stands at 20 November 1963
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76 on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States
- the Directive amending Directive 75/130/EEC on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of goods between Member States.

Approximation of laws

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the determination of the noise emission of construction plant and equipment.

413835

NOTE BIO (78) 468 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AM. BURGHARDT, DG I, A M. LECOMTE
DG VIII

PREPARATION CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT DU 18-19 DECEMBRE 1978

(CHEVALLARD)

LE CONSEIL S'OUVRIRA LUNDI A 15 H. PAR UNE SEANCE INFORMELLE
RESTREINTE SUR L'APPROFONDISSEMENT DE LA POLITIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT.

M. NATALI PRESENTERA DES ORIENTATIONS DE LA COMMISSION EN CE
QUI CONCERNE NOTAMMENT LE ROLE D'UNE POLITIQUE PREVENTIVE
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LA GESTION DES DECHETS.

AU COURS DE LA JOURNEE DU 19 LE CONSEIL SE PENCHERA NOTAMMENT
SUR TROIS DOSSIERS TRADITIONNELS DE LA POLITIQUE DE L'ENVIRON-
NEMENT:

1. POLLUTION DES EAUX PAR LES USINES DE PATES-A-PAPIER

LE DIFFEREND EST TOUJOURS ENTRE LA PLUPART DES PAYS, QUI SOUHAIT-
TE QUE LA COMMUNAUTE ADOPTE DES NORMES D'EMISSION APPLICABLES
A TOUTES LES INDUSTRIES DE LA COMMUNAUTE, ET LE ROYAUME-UNI
QUI PREFERE QUE LA COMMUNAUTE ADOPTE SIMPLEMENT LES OBJECTIFS
DE QUALITE;

2. QUALITES DES EAUX DESTINEES A LA CONSOMMATION HUMAINE

LES PARAMETRES DE QUALITE PROPOSES FONT TOUJOURS L'OBJET DE
DIVERGENCES EN CE QUI CONCERNE NOTAMMENT LE SODIUM ET LE CHLO-
RURE. IL Y A BIEN ENTENDU, DERRIERE CES DIVERGENCES APPAREMMENT
TECHNIQUES, LA QUESTION DE LA QUALITE DES EAUX DU RHIN.

3. CONSERVATION DES OISEAUX

LA FRANCE EST TOUJOURS ISOLEE SUR LA QUESTION DE L'INCLUSION
DE L'ALOUETTE ET DU BRUANT-ORTOLAN PARMIS LES ESPECES CHASSA-
BLES.

LE CONSEIL SE PRESENT DONC OUVERT.

AMITIES,
M. SANTARELLI COMEUR
17H30
NNNN

NNNN

chevallard/sg porte-parole berl 1/4 2207/3170 14.XI.78

X

X

M. SANTARELLI



455452

■***

NOTE BIO(78)468 (■■■■■ SUITE 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, DG 1, ET A
M. LECOMTE DG VIII

■***

CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT DU 18 DECEMBRE 1979

■-----
M. NATALI A OUVERT LA SEANCE INFORMELLE CONSACREE A
L'APPROFONDISSEMENT DE LA POLITIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE DE L'ENVI-
RONNEMENT. IL A NOTAMMENT DECLARE :

■'DES ELEMENTS DE REPOSE A LA QUESTION DE SAVOIR QUELLES SE-
RAIENT LES CONSEQUENCES D'UNE STAGNATION DES POLITIQUES DE
L'ENVIRONNEMENT SONT DONNES DANS UNE ETUDE RECENTE ET TRES
INTERESSANTE REALISEE PAR L'OCDE. D'APRES CETTE ETUDE, UNE
AUGMENTATION DE 3 0/0 PAR AN DU PRODUIT INTERIEUR BRUT DES
PAYS DE L'OCDE SIGNIFIERAIT, SI LES POLITIQUES DE L'ENVIRONNE-
MENT ACTUELLES RESTAIENT A L'ETAT, UNE AUGMENTATION DE 230/0
DES EMISSIONS DE POLLUANTS ENTRE 1978 ET 1985; UNE AUGMENTATION
DE 4 0/0 CONDUIRAIT, D'APRES LA MEME ETUDE, A UNE AUGMENTATION
DES EMISSIONS POLLUANTES DE 32 0/0. L'AUGMENTATION DE LA
POLLUTION SERAIT PARTICULIEREMENT SIGNIFICATIVE DANS CERTAINS
SECTEURS INDUSTRIELS TELS QUE L'INDUSTRIE CHIMIQUE, L'INDUSTRIE
DE FABRICATION D'EQUIPEMENTS ELECTRIQUES ET L'INDUSTRIE MECANI-
QUE QUI SONT SUPPOSES POURSUIVRE UNE CERTAINE EXPANSION, DANS
LE SECTEUR AGRICOLE, DU FAIT DE L'UTILISATION CROISSANTE D'EN-
GRAIS ET DE PESTICIDES, DANS CERTAINS SECTEURS TERTIAIRES TELS
QUE LE TOURISME ET LE TRANSPORT, ET ENFIN DANS LE DOMAINE DE LA
PRODUCTION D'ENERGIE.

UNE TELLE AUGMENTATION DE LA POLLUTION CONSTITUERAIT A L'EVI-
DENCE UN ELEMENT DEFAVORABLE AU DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE RE-
CHERCHE''.

■'LA COMMISSION ENVISAGE PARMIS LES INSTRUMENTS DE POLITIQUE
PREVENTIVE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT CERTAINS OUTILS ECONOMIQUES TELS
QUE LES TAXES ET LES REDEVANCES QUI ONT, S'ILS SONT CORRECTE-
MENT UTILISES, LE TRIPLE AVANTAGE D'ETRE DISSUASIFS, DE CONSTI-
TUER UNE SOURCE DE REVENUS POUR LE FINANCEMENT DE CERTAINS IN-
VESTISSEMENTS ET D'EVITER QUE CE FINANCEMENT PUISSE AVOIR DES
CONSEQUENCES INFLATOIRES.

J'AJOUTERAI QU'IL ME PARAITRAIT IMPORTANT DE RECHERCHER EN COM-
MUN LES MOYENS DE MIEUX ASSOCIER LA POLITIQUE DE L'ENVIRONNE-
MENT AU DEVELOPPEMENT DES POLITIQUES QUI ONT LE PLUS D'IMPACT
SUR L'UTILISATION DU PATRIMOINE NATUREL ET SUR LA QUALITE DU
CADRE DE VIE. JE PENSE EN PARTICULIER AUX POLITIQUES DES
TRANSPORTS, DE L'ENERGIE, DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE L'INDUSTRIE ET
DE L'AMENAGEMENT DU TERRITOIRE.''

AMITIES - MANUEL SANTARELLI - COMMEUR 18 H.

NNNN

NNNN

G. Chevallard DG X

B 1/5 2207 18.12.78

x

M. SANTARELLI



NOTE BIO (78) 468 (SUITE 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, DG I, A M. LECOMTE
DG VIII

CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT (CHEVALLARD)

LE LARGE DEBAT DE CARACTERE GENERAL SUR LA POLITIQUE DE
L'ENVIRONNEMENT A ETE CLOTURE PAR M. NATALI ET PAR LES
CONCLUSION DU PRESIDENT.

M. NATALI A NOTAMMENT DECLARE
QUE A CE LARGE DEBAT IL FAUT FAIRE SUIVRE DES REALISATIONS
COMPLETES. IL A EGALLEMENT MIS EN GARDE CONTRE LES TENTATIONS
A MENER UNE POLITIQUE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT A L'ECHELLE SEULE-
MENT NATIONALE.

LE PRESIDENT A TIRE DU DEBAT LES CONCLUSIONS SUIVANTES:

- LES MINISTRES AYANT CONSTATE L'IMPORTANCE DES DEBATS
DE CARACTERE POLITIQUE ONT DECIDE QUE DES PAREILS DEBATS AU-
RONT LIEU DEUX FOIS PAR AN.

CES DEBATS DEVRONT FACILITER LA PRISE DE DECISION CONCRETE
- IL EST NECESSAIRE DE POURSUIVRE LA POLITIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT DE MANIERE FERME POUR FACILITER LE DEVE-
LOPPLEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL. CETTE POLITIQUE FAIT PARTIE
INTEGRANTE DES ACTIONS DES POUVOIRS PUBLICS.
ELLE NE DOIT PAS DEPENDRE DE LA CONJONCTURE.

LES EXIGENCES ECONOMIQUES, TEL QUE LA LUTTE CONTRE LE
CHOMAGE, LES INVESTISSEMENTS ET LES DESEQUILIBRES REGIONAUX,
DOIVENT ETRE PRISES EN LIGNE DE COMPTE.

- UNE POLITIQUE EFFICACE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT PRESUPPOSE
DES ANALYSES COUTS-BENEFICES.

- LES PROBLEMES LIES A DES STANDARDS COMMUNS DOIVENT ETRE
PRIS EN CONSIDERATION DANS L'ELABORATION DE LA POLITIQUE
COMMUNAUTAIRE.

- LE CONSEIL A CONSACRE SON ATTENTION SUR 4 DOMAINES FONDA-
MENTAUX QUI SERONT ULTERIEUREMENT EXAMINES PAR LA COMMISSION:
ETUDES D'IMPACT, TECHNOLOGIE PROPRE, CONTRATS DE CADRE DE VIE
ET DECHETS.

- DANS LA POURSUITE DE LA POLITIQUE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT SUR
CES QUATRE AXES IL FAUDRA EXAMINER COMME, MIEUX QUE
JUSQU'ICI, LA COMMUNAUTE POURRA TENIR COMPTE DES DONNEES
GEOGRAPHIQUES DIFFERENTES DANS LES PAYS MEMBRES.
CECI EST D'AUTANT IMPORTANT DANS LA PERSPECTIVE DE
L'ELARGISSEMENT.

LES TRAVAUX DU CONSEIL ONT REPRIS AUJOURD'HUI A 9H30.

NNNN

M. SANTARELLI



319808

AMITIES,

M. SANTARELLI COMEUR

11H10

BIEN LIRE AU QUATRIEME TIRET: '' LES PROBLEMES LIES A DES
STANDARDS COMMUNES DE CONCURRENCE DOIVENT ETRE PRIS EN CONSI-
DERATION DANS L'ELABORATION...''

NNNN

NNNN

453206

■***

NOTE BIO(78) 468 (SUITE 3) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE ET A MM. LES ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT (G. CHEVALLARD)

TANDIS QUE LES TRAVAUX SE POURSUIVENT EN VUE DE L ADOPTION DE LA
DIRECTIVE SUR LA QUALITE DE L EAU DESTINEE A LA CONSOMMATION
HUMAINE, LE CONSEIL VIENT D ADOPTER LA DIRECTIVE SUR LA PROTEC
TION DES OISEAUX. DE PLUS AMPLES DETAILS VOUS ■SERONT ENVOYES
○UR CETTE ■DERNIERE DECISION.

AMITIES

E. PERLOT COMEUR 18H35

NNNN

P.S. : ACP : une BIO séparée vous parviendra mercredi.

NNNN

M. ■■■ CHEVALLARD BERL. 1/24 5423 19.12.78 X X

E. PERLOT, Porte-Parole et
Directeur général de l'Information

P-1

413837

■***

NOTE BIO (78■) 468 (■■■SUITE 4 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MMEBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, DG I, A M. LECOMTE,
DG VIII

■***

CONSEIL ENVIRONNEMENT (G. CHEVALLARD)

■-----

LE CONSEIL S'EST ACHEVE A 19H AVEC L'ADOPTION DE LA DIRECTIVE
SUR LA QUALITE DE L'EAU POUR LA CONSOMMATION HUMAINE.
CE CONSEIL A ETE AINSI QUALIFIE DE TRES FRUCTUEUX ■■■ PAR
M. NATALI, COMPTE TENU DU FAIT QUE ■■ DEUX DIRECTIVES IMPOR-
TANTES ONT ETE ADOPTES.

AMITIES,
M. SANTARELLI COMEUR
10H15
NNNN

NNNN

chevallard/sg porte-parole berl 1/4 2207/3170 20.XII.78

X

X

MANUEL SANTARELLI



