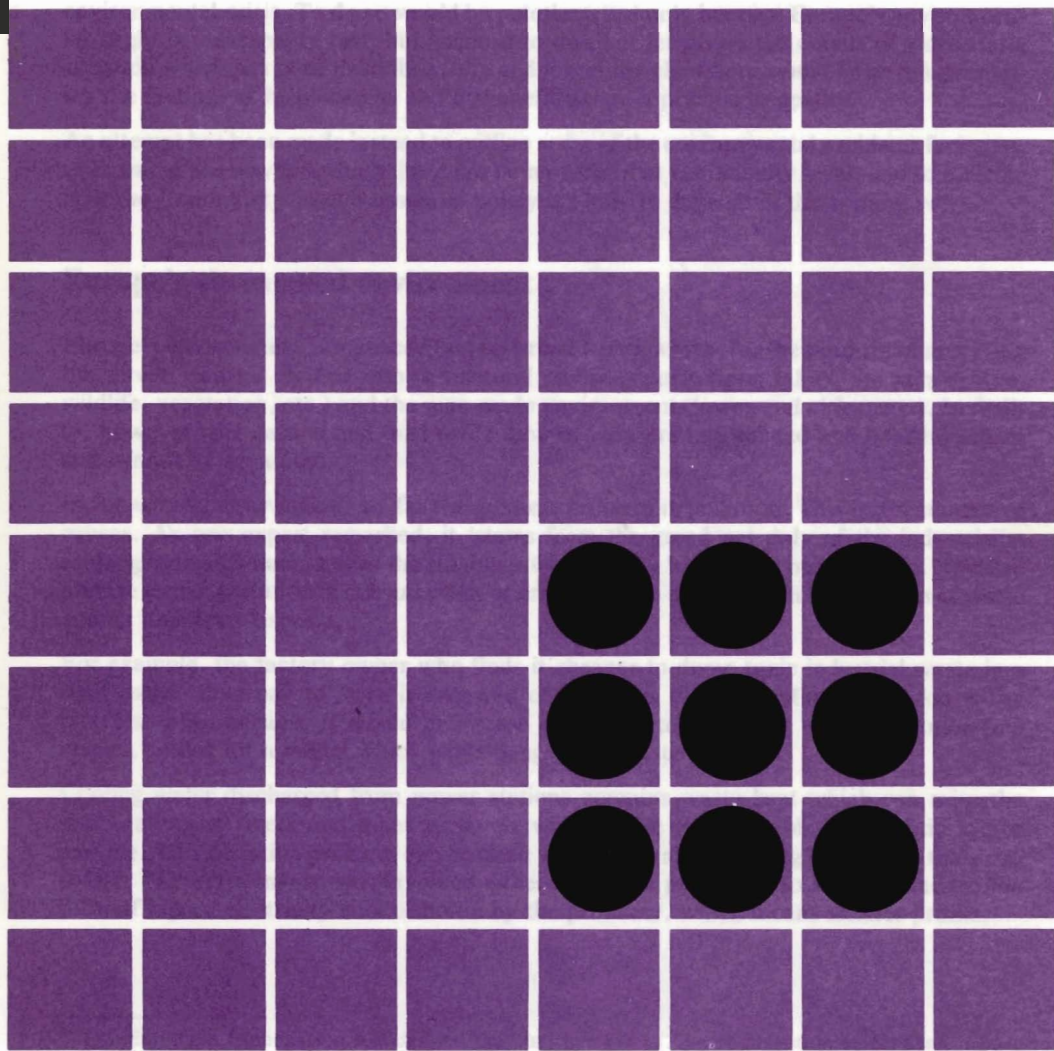


The European Community's environmental policy



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The primary aim of this document is not to convince its readers that Europe is faced with an environmental crisis. To do so would be pointless, not only because Europe's environmental plight is inescapably real, but because to dwell at length on the details of a desperate situation which has been described fully and forcefully elsewhere would be to risk promoting the feelings of helplessness and disbelief that are a prelude to apathy.

An attempt has been made instead to outline some of the environmental problems facing us, to examine the ways in which these are being tackled at Community level, and to indicate how the Community's environmental policy is likely to develop in the coming years.

Europe's threatened environment

Europe's environment is menaced on two broad fronts which, for the purpose of analysing the threat, can be divided into the natural environment (rivers, lakes, the atmosphere, wildlife, vegetation, etc.) and the man-made environment (towns and cities, etc.). In reality, however, the natural and man-made environment are interrelated and interdependent and cannot be separated.¹

In the *natural environment* by far the greatest problem is pollution. This has a number of causes. As one expert remarked, it 'stems from the greed not only of the industrialist seeking the quick buck, but of the customer who wants a lot of things on the cheap.' In more precise terms, pollution in consumption-oriented Europe derives from the creation of waste and its improper disposal.

For example, the factory owner who finds it cheaper to dump toxic industrial waste in a river rather than pay to have it disposed of safely, is creating pollution. So too is the motorist who, because it would prove too expensive to run a car with a pollution-free engine, settles for a model which emits dangerous exhaust gases.

Cooling water discharged from power stations contains waste heat which can raise the temperature of rivers and lakes to levels which make it impossible for aquatic life to survive. This pollution problem can be dealt with by installing cooling towers but these are costly. The extra investment involved either has to be passed on to the customer in the form of higher electricity bills or borne by the producer, which means smaller profits.

¹ The European Commission has defined the environment as 'the combination of elements whose complex inter-relationships make up the settings, the surroundings and the conditions of life of the individual and of society, as they are or as they are felt.'

Other forms of pollution are more complex, bound up as they are with the problem of mismanagement of resources—the other side of the ‘waste’ coin. In the natural environment, for example, indiscriminate use of pesticides can result in the death not only of plant pests, but also of wild birds and other fauna. Pesticide residues can also find their way into the food chain and eventually cause human health problems.



Wild life and vegetation are increasingly threatened in their natural surroundings by man's activities. Rural Europe has been transformed in many areas by the development of intensive farming but this in turn has made Europe's farmers more and more dependent on artificial aids to food production. Inorganic fertilizers and other chemical substances such as weedkillers can, however, have undesirable side effects: water supplies become contaminated, soil structures can be broken down and so on.

Unfortunately man-made pollution invariably finds its way into the natural environment. Domestic and industrial effluents are washed down by the rivers to the sea and atmospheric pollutants are dispersed by the winds and return to the soil in the rain.

Toxic wastes discharged by industry contaminate micro-organisms and find their way by complex—and mostly uncharted pollution pathways—into the food chain.

In the *man-made environment* the situation is, if anything, worse. Europe, already one of the most densely populated regions in the world, is in the throes of an urban explosion which, if allowed to continue unchecked, could lead eventually to the destruction of much that we value in our culture, heritage and society.

EEC urban population as a percentage of total population

	1950	1960	1970
Belgium	63.4	66.2	71.2
Denmark	67.3	74.1	80.1
France	54.1	61.3	70.2
Germany	72.5	77.6	82.4
Ireland	40.6	45.7	50.7
Italy	44.0	47.8	51.5
Luxembourg	58.8	62.6	65.6
Netherlands	70.5	67.5	72.2
United Kingdom	78.5	79.3	80.1
EEC	61.1	64.6	69.3

Source: OECD

The situation is bad enough at the moment—high concentrations of industry and population make for heavy pollution—but in future it could get worse. Trends are such that the next twenty years or so could see the creation in the Community of what has been described as a giant 'megalopolis': an urban agglomeration sprawling from the Ruhr in West Germany through 'Randstad Holland' and the industrial crescent of Antwerp-Brussels-Lille to Paris in the south and from there over the Channel to join a London bursting at the seams.

The problem is that this vast urban melting pot already exists in far from embryonic form.

Most people are only too aware of the environmental pressures confronting the city dweller. Noise, dirt, congestion and the visual 'pollution' of the urban landscape marred by industry and often scarred by the results of the 'bulldozer' approach to urban renewal, all combine to create a deteriorating situation in which the quality of life is seriously threatened.

Industrial Europe can claim many achievements including high material standards of living, high levels of literacy, high average life expectancy and adequate supplies of food. What it is in danger of losing are satisfying living and working conditions.

The problems confronting Europeans in their increasingly urban society are compounded by the fact that it is becoming more and more difficult to get away from them. In and around our cities, parks and green belts are gradually being whittled away as urban populations grow and suburbs expand. It has been estimated, for example, that if Belgium's urban development continues at current rates then the whole country will be built up by the year 2030!

At weekends and at holiday time, Europeans who want to escape from the cities are obliged to fight their way through traffic jams to crowded holiday resorts. Escaping from the towns, however, does not necessarily mean escaping from pollution. For example, holidaymakers on the Mediterranean—and there are over 30 million of them a year—may not be aware of it, but pollution in the Mediterranean as a whole, and in the Western Mediterranean in particular, has reached dangerous levels.

Pollution levels on the Atlantic coastline are in general much lower thanks to the ocean's greater capacity to absorb and neutralize pollutants, but in some areas problems are caused by the vast amounts of waste brought down to the sea by the large rivers like the Rhine and Scheldt which drain Europe's industrial heartland.

Although it is difficult to quantify the social costs of pollution, it is evident that in terms of the quality of life, Europe is already paying a high price for its industrialization and development. The price, however, has also been high as far as the purely economic impact is concerned.

It would be an impossible task to work out precisely Europe's annual pollution bill in terms of the damage done to property in the widest sense and the cost of repairing that damage, but a glance at the following statistics for one country alone should give some indication of the magnitude of the problem and the sums of money involved.

Estimated damage costs of air pollution in the United Kingdom, 1970

(million pounds)

Item	Marginal damage		Total damage	
	Economic cost	Social cost	Economic cost	Social cost
Painting	—	6.3	—	6.3
Corrosion and protection of metal structures	10	—	42	—
Textiles	33	—	33	—
Leather, paper wood, rubber	—	—	—	—
<i>Damage costs</i>	43	6.3	75	6.3
Laundry and household goods (including car cleaning)	.5	164	.5	164
Exterior cleaning of building	—	1.5	—	1.5
Window and office cleaning	5.0	—	5.0	—
<i>Soiling costs</i>	5.5	165.5	5.5	165.5
Total damage and soiling costs	48.5	171.8	80.5	171.8

Source: Programmes Analysis Unit, *An Economic and Technical Appraisal of Air Pollution in the United Kingdom*, Chilton, Didcot, Berks., 1971.

Facing up to the problem

Governments have only recently started taking the environmental threat seriously. Although piecemeal anti-pollution legislation has existed in many European countries for a number of years, it was not until the early 1970's that world attention was drawn to the impending environmental crisis.

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in June 1972 alerted public opinion to the environmental problems facing mankind, and attention was further focussed on the possibility of an environmental and social apocalypse with the publication at the same time as the UN Conference of the controversial report on 'The Limits to Growth' commissioned by the Club of Rome.

Many governments have subsequently turned their attention to the formulation of environmental policies and this has been accompanied by a growing awareness that 'traditional' economic and political goals such as high growth rates, full employment and economic stability, should be seen in conjunction with the overall aim of improving the quality of life.

Progress has perhaps not been as fast as many environmentalists would like (the table below gives a clear idea of how government expenditure on pollution control in some leading industrialized countries compares with budget allocations for other sectors), but it would be fair to say that most European governments, in common with other industrialized countries, are already pursuing environment programmes of one kind or another with varying degrees of success and efficiency.

Expenditures on pollution control, welfare-oriented expenditures and defence expenditures as percentage of GNP

	Pollution control 1971-1975	Defence 1970	Residential building average 1967-1969	Education	Health
United States	0.8	8.2	3.5	7.5 (70)	7.0 (70)
Germany	0.8	2.9	5.4	7.8 (68)	3.9 (70)
Italy	0.4	3.6	6.6	5.5 (70)	5.2 (70)
Sweden	0.5-0.9	3.8 (69)	6.1	5.2 (69)	6.3 (69)
Japan	3.0-5.5	n.a.	6.9	5.9 (65)	2.0 (70) ¹
Netherlands	0.4	3.5	5.5	5.5 (70)	4.6 (70) ²

¹ Government only.

² Private sector only.

Source: OECD, Analysis of Costs of Pollution Control, 1973..

Environmental policy and the role of the Community

Given that all nine Community Member States are actively engaged in environmental protection policies at national level, it may reasonably be asked why the Community as such has concerned itself with the environment sector.

Quite apart from the fact that there is a lot to be said for working together as a Community to solve problems that are common to us all, there are four very good reasons why the Community should have its own environmental policy and programme:

- (i) because many environmental problems have to be tackled on an international or intra-Community basis;
- (ii) because, as a Community, we have set ourselves economic goals which have important implications for the environment;
- (iii) because we are living in a community in which disparate economic action at national level can disrupt the normal functioning of the common market;
- (iv) because in some circumstances the Community institutions are better equipped to react to changing environmental policy requirements.

These arguments in favour of Community involvement in environmental matters are set out more fully below.

1. Tackling problems on an international basis

Pollution, unfortunately, is no respecter of national boundaries and what happens in one country can have far-reaching effects in another. Europe, with its closely-knit pattern of states, is particularly exposed to this problem.

The Rhine, to take a well-known example, serves as a convenient dumping ground for industrial wastes in Switzerland, Germany and France and by the time it reaches the Netherlands downstream, it is virtually an open sewer. Again, over 80% of Europe's lakes and rivers are shared by two or more states.

On an even wider scale, Norway blames sulphur dioxide (SO₂) pollution from the industrial regions of the Community for the acid rain and snow which are causing severe depletion of fish stocks in Norwegian lakes and rivers.

The transfrontier pollution problems outlined above are not the only reason why environmental protection is often seen as a matter for international action. In the field of nature conservation and wildlife protection, for example, international cooperation is essential. Protection of migratory birds or endangered species by one country is a waste of time if they are slaughtered by another.

Many transfrontier problems in the environmental field can be settled bilaterally or multilaterally by the countries concerned but it is useful and often essential to have an international body like the Community in which problems can be raised and solutions reached.

2. Reconciling economic growth with environmental protection

When the European Economic Community (EEC) came into being in March 1957 with the signing of the Treaty of Rome, the Member States¹ agreed that the 'essential objective of their efforts' would be 'the constant improvement of the living and working conditions of

¹ The original signatories of the EEC Treaty were the 'Six': Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The 'Six' became the 'Nine' in 1973 when the Community was enlarged to include Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom.



their peoples'. They went on to pledge (Article 2) that their task would be 'to promote throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities, a continuous and balanced expansion, an increase in stability, *an accelerated raising of the standard of living* and closer relations between the states belonging to it'.

In most respects the Community has carried out its self-imposed task successfully. Over the last twenty years, the Member States have enjoyed a sustained rate of economic growth and standards of living have improved at a pace unparalleled in Europe's history. On the face of it—if prosperity can be calculated simply in terms of per capita income or car and TV ownership—Community citizens are much better off than ever before.

However, material prosperity based on continued economic growth does not necessarily lead to a better quality of life if the only way to sustain growth is to maintain production and consumption at levels which in turn lead to higher pollution, greater waste and a rapidly deteriorating environment.

As mentioned earlier, the Club of Rome published, in 1972, a report on the limits of growth and launched a campaign in favour of no-growth economic policies. Essentially what the Club argued was that the earth's natural resources are finite and that it was no longer possible, or acceptable, for countries—especially the industrialized ones—to continue striving for economic growth based on increasing consumption of unrenovable resources. Growth, it maintained, only makes sense if it translates into a better quality of life and not into a growing quantity of goods produced and consumed.

At the moment most European governments—capitalist and socialist—are committed to policies of growth. Indeed it would be very difficult politically for a government to suddenly tell its electorate that it was no longer going to pursue traditional growth policies. And yet, in Europe at least, it is clear that if we continue as we have done in the past, it will prove impossible for the Community to live up to the 'essential objective' of the Rome Treaty—the 'constant improvement' of living and working conditions.

All this adds up to the fact that the Community as such needs an environmental policy with clearly defined objectives

3. Environmental protection and the functioning of the Common Market

In a Community striving to create a common industrial base, joint action in the environmental field is essential if distortion of competition is to be avoided. If one Member State imposes tougher—and more costly—anti-pollution measures, than its industry will be placed at a disadvantage vis-à-vis its competitors in a Member State where environmental controls are less stringent. If the EEC principle of fair competition is to be maintained, then uniform environmental protection measures should apply throughout the Community.

4. Community initiative in the environmental field

Last, but by no means least important of the reasons for Community involvement in the environmental policy field, is the fact that it is uniquely placed to take a long-term view of environmental developments and requirements.

National governments are invariably preoccupied with short term problems and few—even if they are certain to stay in office—are in a position to plan environmental strategies which take account of long-term, often far-reaching, developments in the environmental sector.

Because of its longer term view of environmental requirements, and because it is also in a position to introduce legislation on its own initiative, the Community should be able to take timely action to head-off pollution problems before they become a major threat to the environment and human health.

Community environmental policy: the first action programme

The need for a Community environmental policy was formally recognized at the EEC summit conference in Paris, 19-20 October 1972, when EEC leaders emphasized the importance of such a policy and called on the Community Institutions to establish, before 31 July 1973, a programme of action accompanied by a precise timetable.

In Paris the Nine declared that:

'economic expansion is not an end in itself: its first aim should be to enable disparities in living conditions to be reduced. It must take place with the participation of all the social partners. It should result in the improvement in the quality of life as well as in standards of living. As befits the genius of Europe, particular attention will be given to intangible values and to protecting the environment so that progress may really be put at the service of mankind'.

Just over a year later, on 22 November 1973, the Council of Ministers adopted the Community's first environmental action programme and set out the objectives and general principles of Community environmental policy (see box). This programme involved three broad categories of action:

- action to reduce and prevent pollution and nuisances;
- action to improve the environment and the quality of life;
- Community action or, where applicable, common action by the Member States in international organizations dealing with the environment.

The size and scope of this brochure does not allow for an exhaustive account of EEC environmental policy developments and what follows in this section is a survey of action within the above categories, highlighting the most important achievements.

Objectives of the Community's environment policy

The aim of a Community environment policy is to improve the setting and quality of life, and the surroundings and living conditions of the peoples of the Community. It must help to bring expansion into the service of man by procuring for him an environment providing the best conditions of life, and reconcile this expansion with the increasingly imperative need to preserve the natural environment.

It should:

- (i) prevent, reduce and as far as possible eliminate pollution and nuisances;*
- (ii) maintain a satisfactory ecological balance and ensure the protection of the biosphere;*
- (iii) ensure the sound management of and avoid any exploitation of resources or of nature which cause significant damage to the ecological balance;*
- (iv) guide development in accordance with quality requirements, especially by improving working conditions and the settings of life;*
- (v) ensure that more account is taken of environmental aspects in town planning and land use;*
- (vi) seek common solutions to environmental problems with States outside the Community, particularly in international organizations.*

Principles of the Community's environment policy

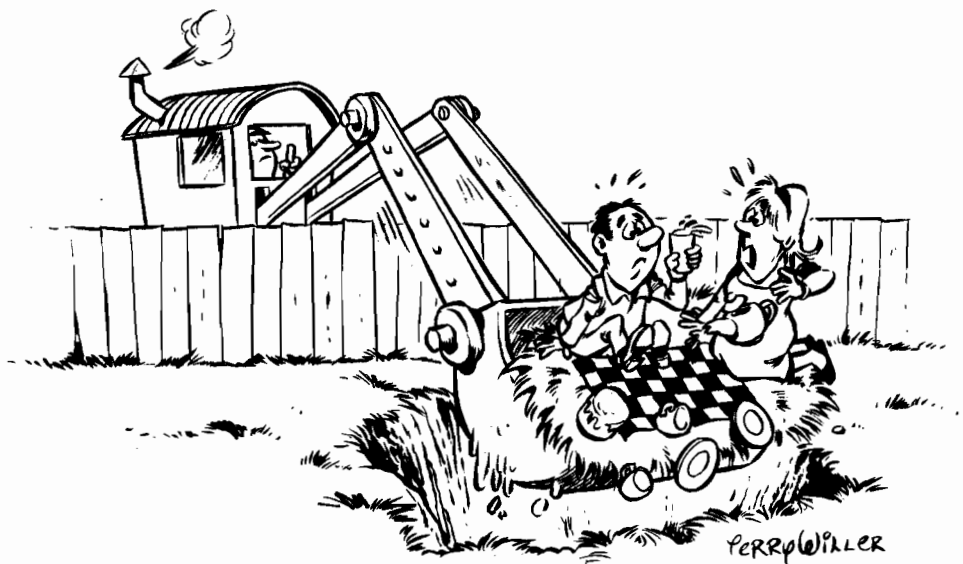
The Council of Ministers endorsed the general principles of a Community environment policy as worked out by EEC Environment Ministers at their meeting in Bonn on 31 October 1972.

Briefly, these principles are as follows :

- (i) the best environment policy consists in preventing the creation of pollution or nuisances at source rather than subsequently trying to counter their effects;*
- (ii) environment policy can and must be compatible with economic and social development;*
- (iii) effect on the environment should be taken into account at the earliest possible stage in all technical planning and decision-making processes;*
- (iv) any exploitation of natural resources or anything which causes significant damage to the ecological balance must be avoided;*
- (v) standards of scientific and technological knowledge in the Community should be improved with a view to taking effective action to conserve and improve the environment and to combat pollution and nuisances. Research in this field should therefore be encouraged;*
- (vi) the cost of preventing and eliminating nuisances must in principle be borne by the polluter;*
- (vii) care should be taken to ensure that activities carried out in one State do not cause any degradation of the environment in another State;*
- (viii) the Community and its Member States must take into account in their environment policy the interests of the developing countries, and must in particular examine any repercussions of the measures contemplated under that policy on the economic development of such countries;*
- (ix) the Community and the Member States must make their voices heard in international organizations dealing with aspects of the environment and must make an original contribution to these organizations;*
- (x) the protection of the environment is a matter for all in the Community, who should therefore be made aware of its importance*
- (xi) in each different category of pollution, it is necessary to establish the level of action that befits the type of pollution;*
- (xii) major aspects of environmental policy in individual countries must no longer be planned and implemented in isolation;*
- (xiii) Community environment policy is aimed, as far as possible, at the coordinated and harmonized progress of national policies without, however, hampering potential or actual progress at the national level. However, the latter should be carried out in a way that does not jeopardize the satisfactory operation of the common market.*

1. Pollution control

The emphasis during the first EEC action programme was quite clearly placed on the reduction of pollution and nuisances. Under this heading the programme called for a wide range of measures extending from what might be called pollution control 'groundwork' (i.e. the objective evaluation of the risks to human health and to the environment from certain pollutants, the setting of standards and quality objectives, monitoring of pollution levels in the environment, etc.), to specific measures geared to the control of pollution caused, for example, by waste, by energy production, by certain products and industrial sectors.



Groundwork

There are numerous gaps in our knowledge of environmental problems and these have to be filled if we are to combat pollution successfully. On the scientific front, for example, we still have very imperfect knowledge of the effects of certain pollutants on the environment and in many cases acceptable exposure levels can only be guessed at. Nor do we know precisely how pollutants are concentrated or dispersed in the environment.

In other words, there is a need to develop methods of measuring pollution and of monitoring its effects on the environment.

The first action programme provided for research aimed at filling the gaps in our knowledge and already much important groundwork has been carried out. So far this has related primarily to assessment of the dangers of certain pollutants to man and his environment. Reports have been drafted and in some cases proposals submitted. For example, the dose/effect relationship of lead and lead compounds has been evaluated and this resulted in the European Commission drawing up draft legislation setting biological and air quality standards for these substances. A proposal setting maximum blood lead levels for the population was adopted by the Council in December 1976 and a further proposal on atmospheric concentrations is currently being discussed by national experts. Proposals covering other pollutants—notably asbestos, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide are now being drawn up.

The action programme also called for the fixing of quality objectives for different sectors of the environment. The aim of this is to establish maximum limits for the concentration of pollutants in, for example, water or the atmosphere or certain products, bearing in mind human health criteria and the capacity of the natural environment to cope with pollution.

As we shall see, the Community is now making progress towards the definition of common quality objectives in a number of areas. It is also playing a leading part in improving environmental monitoring in Europe.

Water pollution

The last three years have seen some very important work at Community level on the reduction of pollution in both fresh and sea water. Quality objectives have been set, steps taken to control the discharge of dangerous substances into the aquatic environment, and proposals made to control pollution from certain industries.

In June 1975 the Nine adopted a directive¹ on the quality of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water and this was followed in December of the same year by adoption of a directive setting out bathing water quality standards. Further proposals from the European Commission currently under discussion in the Council concern:

- the quality of water for human consumption;
- quality requirements for water capable of supporting fresh water fish; and
- quality requirements for water favourable to shellfish growth.

Also under discussion in the Council is a proposal which when adopted will provide for the establishing within the Community of a uniform procedure for the exchange of information on the quality of surface fresh water in the EEC. This should improve the flow of information between pollution surveillance and monitoring networks so that the overall situation can be kept under review.

Perhaps the most important step taken by the Nine to improve the overall quality of water in the Community was their adoption in May 1976 of a directive aimed at preventing pollution of EEC waters by dangerous substances. When fully implemented by the Member States this piece of legislation will greatly reduce the amount of toxic waste dumped in Community waters. It is the European Commission's intention to complement this measure with specific legislation covering water pollution caused by certain industries and proposals are already under discussion in Brussels.

At a time when fresh water represents less than 1% of all water on our earth, Community action to protect fresh water from pollution should go a long way to safeguarding a natural resource which is vital to the environment but so often taken for granted.

The sea, a global resource of incalculable value, is also desperately in need of protection. The particular problems of the Mediterranean have already been mentioned but the oceans in general are also in grave danger. At the moment the sea is regarded as a convenient dumping ground for all kinds of waste including radioactive wastes. Ships discharge oil on the high seas and seaside communities pump out their sewage into coastal waters. Add to this the vast amounts of pollution brought down by rivers and one can see why ecologists fear that the oceans are dying.

¹ Directives are binding on the Member States to which they are addressed as regards the result to be achieved, but leave the mode and means to the discretion of the national authorities.

The Community is aware of the problem and in addition to participating in a number of international conventions aimed at protecting the oceans from pollution (see below under International Action) is considering its own rules for protecting the marine environment. A proposal for a directive curbing the dumping of wastes at sea is now being studied by the Nine and the recently-adopted directive on dangerous substances mentioned above should go a long way to eliminating at source dangerous pollutants which would eventually find their way into the sea.

Still in the water sector, the European Commission, as a continuation of the first action programme, is currently working on proposals for directives on the quality of water for use in farming, the protection of aquatic life in general, the quality of water for use in industry and measuring methods and sampling frequencies for surface waters for human consumption.

Industrial sectors and products

The action programme stated that protection of the environment required that particular attention be paid to industrial activities in which the manufacturing processes entailed the introduction of pollutants or nuisance into the environment. A series of priority industries were selected for investigation and proposals were submitted concerning the pulp and paper and titanium dioxide industries. The Commission is currently studying pollution caused by the iron and steel industry, the petrochemical industry, the food industry and the leather industry and proposals will follow in due course.

The environmental action programme as it applies to certain products is closely bound up with the EEC's industrial action programme and in particular that part of the industrial programme dealing with the abolition of technical barriers to trade in foodstuffs and industrial products.

As the environmental action programme pointed out, 'the protection of man and his environment calls for special attention to be paid to products the use of which may lead to harmful consequences for man and the environment. Moreover, differences as between Member States in the assessment of such risks might possibly lead to the creation or the reintroduction of barriers to trade which would be detrimental to the satisfactory operation of the common market.'

Thus it was that with the joint aim of protecting man and his environment and of safeguarding the proper functioning of the common market, the Community embarked on a broad programme of product legislation which covers, among other things, detergents, cosmetics, crockery, packaging, car and motor cycle engines, fuel oils, pneumatic drills, lawns mowers, paints and varnishes, pesticides, solvents, explosives and other dangerous substances, power saws, preservatives, plant-protection products, tower cranes and jackhammers.

EEC legislation on a number of products has already been adopted (see Annex I for a list of EEC environmental legislation to date) including directives on detergents, exhaust gases from motor vehicle engines, the sulphur content of gas-oils, food colorants, cosmetics, food preservatives, materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs and pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables.

Of the numerous directives already adopted, one in particular is worth taking a closer look at because of its implications for the environment.

In July 1976 the Nine adopted a directive restricting the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations. This directive prohibits the marketing and use of these substances in certain products where their use would be dangerous to health or the environment—for example, it bans the use of vinylchloride monomer (a well known cancer-causing agent) as a propellant in aerosols and prohibits the use of other chemical pollutants.

The importance of this directive is that it is 'open ended' and other pollutants and dangerous substances can be added to it at any time.

Another important initiative taken in the products sector at Community level concerns a recent Commission proposal on premarketing controls for chemical substances¹. When adopted this directive will ensure that new chemicals are tested for possible harmful properties in the laboratory and not in the environment. With thousands of new chemicals coming on the market every year, and thousands already on sale, it is essential that screening is carried out to ensure adequate health and environmental protection.

The elimination of technical trade barriers is an ongoing and important aspect of the Community's industrial policy and will continue to overlap with the Community's environmental policy. It can be expected therefore that new legislation will be introduced in the years to come and existing legislation updated in the light of new environmental requirements or new scientific and technological information.

Energy production and pollution

Energy production in all its forms was singled out for special mention in the first action programme as a 'source of various types of pollution and nuisances', in particular:

- (i) atmospheric pollution caused by the combustion of fuels in fixed plant and refineries, domestic heating and internal combustion engines;
- (ii) water pollution caused by the discharge of cooling water and pollutants;
- (iii) thermal pollution of water and air by electricity generating stations.

The best way to reduce energy-derived pollution is, of course, to cut energy production and consumption. It seems unlikely, however, that Europe, with its energy-based economy, will be able (at least in the foreseeable future) to take this step. On the contrary, it would appear that energy consumption in Europe is destined to grow and to rely increasingly on coal and nuclear energy. Both entail special pollution problems and Community environment policy will have to gear itself to these.

The problem of reconciling environmental protection with energy consumption was recognized by the Nine in March 1975 when the Council adopted a resolution on energy and the environment. In this the Member States made special reference to the environmental

¹ This proposal takes the form of a modification to the existing EEC directive on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.

implications of nuclear power development in the Community.¹ This development is, in fact, one of the most important issues facing Europe at the moment and it is perhaps worth noting here what the Community is doing in the field of nuclear safety.

With the exception of radioactive waste management (see the section on waste below) most Community work in the nuclear safety field is carried out within the context of the Euratom Treaty rather than the EEC environmental action programme.

For some years now the Community has been carrying out a major research programme on radiation protection. Health protection standards are drawn up, background radioactivity levels monitored and nuclear waste supervised. In June 1976, the Council adopted a directive laying down revised basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation.

The programme is also concerned with the ecological and health effects of radiation and radioactive particles. As part of its regulatory function under the Euratom Treaty the European Commission supervises nuclear installation projects in the Community and monitors radioactive effluents from nuclear plant. It also sponsors research into three important nuclear fields: nuclear plant safety, the safe transport of nuclear materials and the dismantling of obsolete nuclear power stations. To ensure that nuclear materials are not diverted to non-peaceful uses the Commission supervises the use of fissile materials and ensures that Euratom safeguards are being respected.

In the general energy field the Commission has been looking into the environmental problems caused by thermal discharges from power stations. Where cooling water is passed directly through power plants and discharged without prior cooling into the sea or waterways, than considerable problems can arise because this heat can disturb and destroy the ecological balance of the water systems involved. In response to the Council's resolution on energy and the environment the Commission, with help from national experts, is now investigating the biological effects of water cooling and studying cooling systems—notably cooling towers—in power stations.

The Commission has also recently submitted a proposal designed to introduce a Community siting policy for the 180 nuclear power stations and 200 conventional power stations scheduled to be constructed in the Community between now and the year 2000 if the Community is to safeguard its supplies of electrical energy. The Commission has proposed that the Nine create a coordination body at EEC level to carry out this task and would like to see the Member States consult each other in cases where a site in one country could have repercussions (environmental, regional and economic) in another.

Air pollution

As early as March 1970, as part of the EEC's industrial action programme, the Council adopted a directive on measures to be taken against air pollution caused by exhaust fumes from motor vehicle engines. This was followed in June 1975 by a decision establishing a

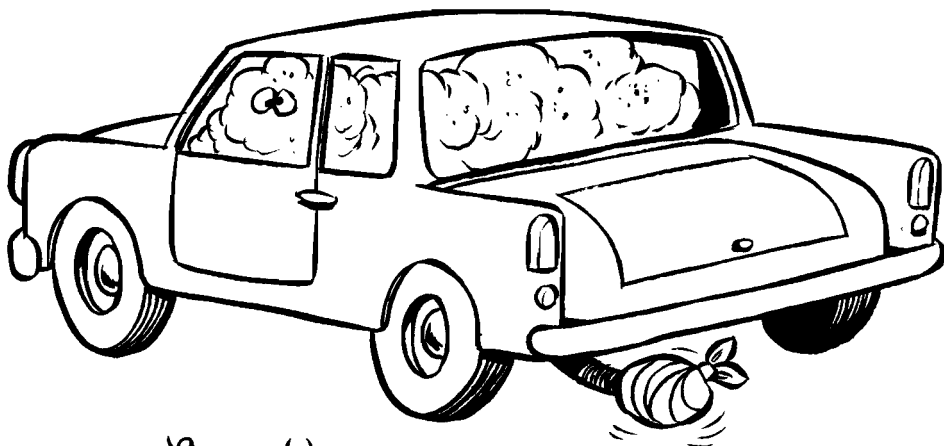
¹ The Council considered (point 6) that the Community and the Member States should study the special problems associated with the development of atomic energy, and particularly the dangers of radiation, and the problems of reactor safety, thermal discharge, radioactive waste, and the reprocessing of nuclear fuels.

common procedure for the exchange of information between EEC surveillance networks monitoring air pollution caused by certain sulphur compounds and dust. Under this procedure, monitoring stations take daily measurements of the scheduled pollutants and send the data to the Commission within six months. The Commission prepares quarterly tabular reports as well as an annual report. A third measure to combat atmospheric pollution was taken in November 1975, when the Nine adopted a directive on the sulphur content of gas-oils. The purpose of this directive was to establish agreed maximum levels of sulphur both for health protection reasons and to bring about freer trade in these products.

Proposals in the pipeline include:

- (i) a draft directive on air quality standards for lead;
- (ii) a draft directive on measures to be taken against the emission of pollutants from diesel engines used in tractors;
- (iii) a draft directive on the use of fuel oils with the aim of decreasing sulphurous emissions; and
- (iv) a draft resolution on the determination of criteria and a directive on health protection standards for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulate matter in urban atmospheres.

As a follow-up to the resolution on energy and the environment, the Commission is working on the development of measuring methods for nitrogen oxides, the supply of low-pollution fuels and the development of desulphurisation and other processes which would reduce sulphur dioxide pollution (and hence the 'acid rain' problem mentioned earlier).



Perry Willers

Noise

The European Commission has drawn up a whole series of proposals in the context of the EEC industrial action programme for directives on permissible noise levels for various products including motor vehicles, motor cycles, pneumatic concrete-breakers and jack-hammers, tower cranes and certain types of current generators for welding and for power supply. A draft directive on the limitation of noise emissions from subsonic aircraft has also been submitted to the Council.

On the general question of noise the Commission has recently sent a communication to the Council on the determination of noise criteria while in December 1974 it proposed a method for measuring noise emissions from constructional plant and equipment which could serve as a base for all Community rules in this field.

As far as work in progress is concerned the Commission is pressing ahead with directives on permissible noise levels for domestic appliances and lawn mowers (again as part of the industrial action programme) and the limitation of light aircraft movements. Studies on noise pollution by power station cooling towers are also in hand.

Waste

In the environmental action programme the Nine agreed that the most important problem for the Community in the waste field was the elimination of wastes which, because of their toxicity, their bulk, or for other reasons, require a solution extending beyond the regional framework and possibly even beyond national frontiers. The programme went on to argue that even if the harmful effects of wastes do not extend beyond the immediate region, Community action may well become necessary if the elimination or re-use of the wastes are dependent on economic resources. If the solutions adopted give rise to differences in the production and distribution conditions of certain goods, these differences may have repercussions on the functioning of the common market and on international trade.

The programme specified that work should be carried out involving:

- (i) the drawing up of an inventory of wastes or residues which are particularly harmful to the environment;
- (ii) study of the economic and legal aspects of the problems posed by the collection, transport, storage, recycling or final treatment of particular wastes including toxic and dangerous waste;
- (iii) an examination of the action to be taken at Community level with regard to these wastes.

Following notification by the French Government of plans for a draft law on waste disposal, the Commission decided to take action at EEC level and in September 1974 submitted a draft framework directive on waste disposal. This was adopted by the Nine in July 1975 and established the principle that waste should be disposed of without endangering human health and without harming the environment.

This framework directive was designed to be complemented by specific directives applying to different types of waste. So far two specific directives, one applying to the treatment waste oil which among other things, obliges Member States to ensure that the disposal of waste oil is carried out as far as possible by recycling, to control discharges into water and to see that processing of these oils does not cause air pollution and the other concerning the disposal of PCBs and PCTs both highly pollutant have been adopted.

A third directive on toxic and dangerous waste is currently under discussion in the Council.

Of major significance in the waste field is the Community action programme on the management and storage of radioactive waste adopted by the Council in June 1975.

The Commission has carried out numerous studies on waste disposal and recycling and a waste management committee is now studying the problems of waste paper, abandoned vehicles and agricultural wastes. In addition a panel of national experts has been set up to examine the gaps in scientific and technical information about primary and secondary raw materials and to draw up a research programme.

Recognizing that fact that one industry's waste may be another's raw material, the European Commission is also planning to organize a meeting between the directors of the 'waste exchanges' which have been established in a number of Community countries to discuss experience gained in this field.

Economic aspects of anti-pollution measures

One of the general principles of environmental policy endorsed by the Council when it adopted the action programme was that the 'polluter should pay'. The Council recognized that the cost of preventing and eliminating nuisances must in principle be borne by the polluter.

In March 1974 the Commission submitted a draft recommendation regarding cost allocation and action by public authorities on environmental matters and this recommendation, embodying the polluter pays principle, was adopted by the Nine a year later in March 1975. The object of this principle is to ensure that the costs connected with the protection of the environment against pollution should be allocated according to the same principles throughout the Community. Each Member State should apply the 'polluter pays' principle without making any distinction as to whether the pollution in question affects that country or another. As a follow-up a panel of national experts is now helping the Commission draw up a proposal for a Council recommendation to the Member States on the assessment of pollution control costs in industry.

2. Action to improve the environment

Although the bulk of the first action programme was devoted to pollution control measures, an important section of the programme dealt with action to improve the environment. This covered protection of the natural environment, environmental problems caused by the depletion of natural resources, urban development and improvement of amenities, improvement of the working environment, creation of a European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions and the promotion of awareness of environmental problems and education.

Much of the work involved in this section is still in progress and will be continued under the second action programme (see below).

Protection of the natural environment

In the action programme the Commission expressed its intention of increasing its campaign for the protection of the natural environment and particularly within the framework of the EEC's agricultural policy—given the impact intensive farming methods can have on the natural environment.

In February 1974 the Commission drew up a proposal for a directive on the encouragement of afforestation schemes, while in April 1975 the Council adopted a directive on mountain and hill farming in less-favoured areas—a measure aimed at stemming depopulation of these areas which would inevitably lead to a level of habitation insufficient to protect the countryside.

The Commission has also just submitted a draft directive on bird conservation designed to put an end to the massive destruction of songbirds and migratory birds in Europe every year—destruction that seriously threatens the ecological balance in Europe because fewer birds means that plant parasites can proliferate. Work will continue in this sector under the second action programme.

The Commission is currently working on the development of a mapping system to present consolidated data on the natural environment as an aid to planning the use of space.

For rural areas the Commission has produced an inventory of the known ecological effects of modern production techniques in agriculture. The areas investigated include misuse of pesticides and certain fertilizers, intensive stock breeding, modern methods of cultivation and the impact of land improvement schemes. Further work is being done on fertilizers, and intensive stock breeding.

Commission findings on pesticides pointed to the advisability of a ban on certain insecticides and fungicides and the introduction of an approval system for the most dangerous pesticides. Proposals to this effect were submitted in July and August 1976.

Depletion of natural resources

The action programme maintained that the supply of certain non-regenerating resources merits closer analysis at world and Community levels in the light of their importance to the environment. The programme—like the 'Limits of Growth' report of the Club of Rome—stressed the need to examine to what extent a high annual rate of world consumption of non-regenerating resources involves a deterioration in the quality of the environment and also to what extent recycling contributes towards improving the quality of the environment in certain cases.

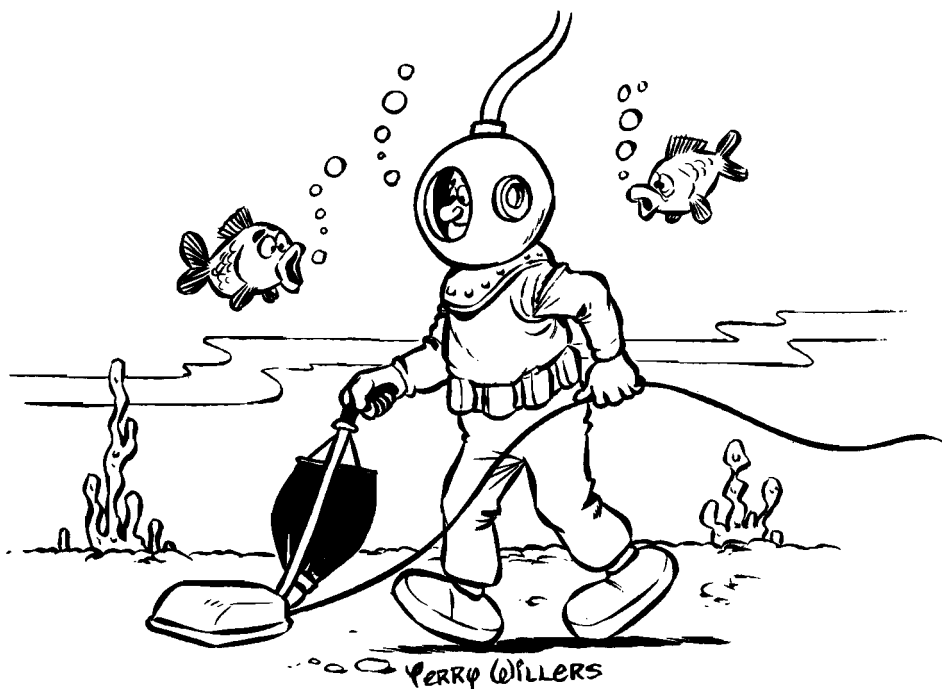
On 4 November 1974 the Council asked the Commission to identify minimum water requirements and classify Community territory on this basis. This is now being done with the aid of national experts. A report on the Community's water resources has been completed. So too have studies of total resources of minerals and metals.

Urban development and improvement of amenities

The action programme recognized the problems facing our increasingly urban society and the Commission has now proposed a research programme relating to the development of large conurbations the aim of which is to produce an analysis of the causes, dynamics and consequences of the development of these large conurbations.

A study of national urban development policies has now been completed and a panel of national experts is studying the findings of a study of the environmental problems of city centres. The panel will decide on possible Community measures.

On 20 December 1974 the Commission made a recommendation to Member States concerning the protection of the architectural and natural heritage calling on those who had not already done so to sign the convention on the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage adopted by UNESCO in 1972 and to actively support the Council of Europe in connection with European Architectural Heritage Year 1975.



Improvement of the working environment

The EEC action programme argued that any project for improving the working environment should aim at obtaining more effective protection of workers, by modernizing industrial medicine, hygiene and safety techniques, and at the same time upgrading working conditions in general.

In order to improve living and working conditions the action programme recommended the creation of a body 'capable of scanning those elements which, through their combined effects, affect living and working conditions'.

Accordingly, a European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions was set up in Dublin. The Foundation will concentrate on the humanization of working conditions; on problems peculiar to certain categories of workers and on certain subjects common to living and working, notably the best use of time (for instance the relationship between working hours and leisure time).

On the question of protection of workers the Commission recently submitted proposals on the protection of the health of workers occupationally exposed to vinyl chloride monomer.

Dissemination of information

In December 1975 the Council adopted a decision establishing a common procedure for the setting up and constant updating of an inventory of sources of information on the environment in the Community, an inventory which will form part of the European contribution to the International Referral System (IRS) of the United Nations Environment Programme.

3. International action

A number of international organizations deal with environmental problems and in order to avoid duplication of effort the Community cooperates with them and follows their work closely. These organizations include OECD, the Council of Europe, NATO, the World Health Organization, UNESCO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The Community as such has also played an important role in international action to combat pollution and in particular in international conventions. So far the Community has signed and ratified the following:

- (i) the Paris Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources;
- (ii) the Barcelona Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean; and
- (iii) the Bonn Convention for the Prevention of Chemical Pollution of the Rhine

A decision on whether the Community should participate in the European Convention for the Protection of International Watercourses against Pollution is pending.

The Community also represents the Nine in the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea as it relates to pollution control.

Relations with non-Member countries have been developed and the Community has now signed technical cooperation agreements with the United States, Canada and Switzerland. Agreement in principle on similar arrangements has been reached with Japan.

In the context of the Euro-Arab dialogue, the European Commission is chairing a specialized group from the European side on the marine environment and the development of coastal areas.

Community action in related sectors

The European Community's environment policy does not and could not exist in isolation from other EEC policies. We have already seen how the environmental action programme overlaps with other EEC programmes—notably in the industrial and social fields—but it also has links with other Community policies and is influenced by them.

1. The industrial action programme

As long as the Community remains a common market, the need to prevent distortion of competition and trade will make it essential for harmonized environmental legislation applying to certain industrial and food products.

2. Regional and social policy

Environmental and social policy clearly overlap where the improvement of living and working conditions are concerned, but a social policy is inextricably bound up with the objectives of the EEC's environment policy: the improvement in the quality of life.

The Community's regional policy has an important joint role to play as well, not just because regional aids can prevent deterioration of certain EEC regions, but because the future environment of Europe is closely linked to the way we learn to use the space available to us. Decongestion measures are necessary if we are to avoid the dangers of megalopolis and that is where a Community regional policy can help reverse the urban 'pull' now so much in evidence.

3. Research programmes

The Community's environmental action programme would not exist if it were not for research. The programme is grounded on research into pollutants and their effects on the environment and on health. The environment programme has its own research programme but it also relies on work done, for example, in the biology and health protection research programme and in the Community's joint research establishments.

4. Consumer action programme

Community policy in the field of consumer protection has not been mentioned but it is of immense relevance to the environment. The Community has its own consumer action programme and certain proposals emerging from this such as recent proposals on product liability are highly relevant to the environment.

The development of Community environmental policy: the new action programme

The second environmental action programme agreed by EEC Environment Ministers on December 9, 1976, basically provides for the continuation of measures set out and initiated under the first programme. The five-year programme (1977-81) will help to forge a more comprehensive environment policy with the emphasis on preventive action, particularly as regards pollution, land use and the production of waste. Special attention is given also to the protection and rational management of space, the environment and natural resources.

The new action programme, drafted in the light of the energy crisis which demonstrated in no uncertain fashion Europe's dependence on external resources, is a programme for conservation and consolidation. It will not bring a 'great leap forward' in the environment field but perhaps just as important it should lay the firm foundations of a Community environment policy capable of steering the Community to a growth model based more firmly on considerations of quality than on quantity.

1. Pollution control

Like the first action programme the second is concerned to a large extent with the reduction of pollution and nuisances. The Commission will continue with its objective evaluation of the risks to human health and to the environment of pollution and will continue to submit proposals in the light of this with a view to reducing pollution in fresh and sea water, in the atmosphere, in certain industrial sectors and products. Noise pollution and pollution linked to energy production will again be the subject of Commission proposals.

As far as water pollution is concerned the Community will be concentrating on working out and adopting the quality objectives and emission norms necessary for the implementation of the directive on the discharge of dangerous substances into the aquatic environment (see page 18).

2. Non-damaging use and rational management of space, the environment and natural resources

Community activities under this section of the programme will involve a development of a method of mapping combining environmental data with space management; endeavours to solve certain environmental problems arising from intensive farming; management of urban space, coastal and mountainous regions; protection of flora and fauna; protection and management of natural resources; anti-wastages measures involving waste management by a comprehensive policy of prevention, reclamation and disposal, and the study of environmental problems caused by depletion of certain natural resources.

The major emphasis in this section will clearly be anti-wastage measures. The very size of the problem (an estimated 1 500 million tonnes of waste of every type produced in the EEC each year), the environmental threat involved, and the potential for recycling and re-use all combine to make the waste sector an important area of activity in the years to come.

The Community's radioactive waste management programme will continue and so too will research into the ultimate nuclear energy problem: the dismantling of nuclear reactors and fuel processing plant.

3. General action to protect and improve the environment

If the environment is to be adequately safeguarded then it is essential that preventive action be taken to ensure that efforts are made to identify environmental problems before they arise.

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arise. A major contribution to such environmental protection in the Community will be the introduction of environmental impact assessment.

The 'environmental impact statement', used for several years now in the United States, is an essential instrument in the prevention of pollution at source for it allows the environmental impact of developments (e.g. the extension of a motorway or the building of a reservoir) to be identified before work begins. In this way, benefits from the planned development can be weighed against the possible environmental consequences and a final decision taken in the light of these.

Under the second action programme the Commission plans to study how appropriate Community environmental impact assessment procedures might be introduced.

As part of more general action to protect and improve the environment, the Commission will also pursue work begun in the first action programme involving:

- (i) evaluation of the costs of anti-pollution measures and the benefits resulting from the improvement of the environment;
- (ii) application of the 'polluter pays' principle to commercial operators causing pollution in a territorial zone situated in one or several states.

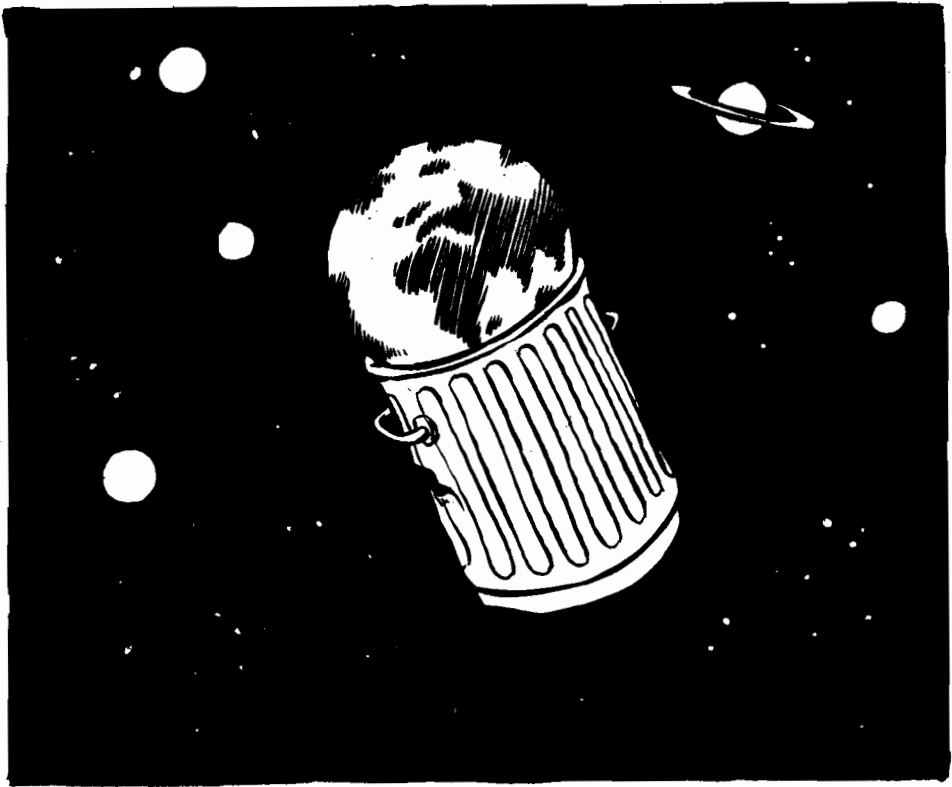
The Community intends to continue its efforts to improve the dissemination of information relating to environmental protection and will give priority to the following tasks:

- (i) the inventory of information sources on the environment agreed under the first programme (see page 30) will be made available as soon as possible;
- (ii) a coordinated body of information services—known as Euronet—will be established.
- (iii) the setting up of an information system on national and Community environmental legislation;
- (iv) the creation of an information network dealing with the technological aspects of pollution control;
- (v) the establishment of a specialized information network covering congresses and conferences on the environment;
- (vi) the setting up of a data bank on chemicals likely to contaminate the environment.

The Community will also continue its work in promoting public awareness of environment problems while on the social front action will be taken to improve the working environment by humanising working conditions. The European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions will develop its work in this field.

4. Action at international level

As in the first action programme the Community will continue to take part in international measures to combat pollution and safeguard the environment. In the new programme, however, special attention will be given to cooperation with the developing countries. This cooperation would essentially be geared to ensuring that polluting industries are not transposed from Europe to the developing world at the expense of the latter's environment. In other words, the Nine will help the developing countries—especially those linked to the Community via the Lomé Convention—to ensure that new techniques in the industrial and farming sectors do not result in excessive pollution and the creation of 'pollution havens'.



Development projects will also attempt to ensure that dangers inherent in agricultural development such as erosion, overgrazing and deterioration of forests can be forestalled.

Europe still has a long way to go on the environmental protection front and if our environment is to be adequately safeguarded and the 'quality of life' maintained and improved, greater efforts will have to be made at all levels—regional, national and international—to introduce and pursue policies that take account of the so-called environmental 'limits' such as the capacity of the natural environment to absorb and neutralize pollution and the capacity of man to withstand the pressures of modern society.

By agreeing to continue EEC environmental action, the Member States have accepted the need for a Community environmental policy and have recognized the part the EEC institutions can play in shaping and protecting the European environment of the future.

The European Community as such will continue to pursue its goal of growth and stability but in the knowledge that these make sense only as a contribution to better conditions in general, not only by raising the standard of living, but by improving the quality of life.

If, as part of the second EEC action programme, the Community is to develop a method of environmental 'mapping', then it seems likely that future maps will show a gradual, but nevertheless positive, improvement in Europe's environment.

Annex I

EEC environmental legislation

Proposals adopted by the Council of Ministers

Proposal	Date of adoption⁽¹⁾	Official Journal reference
1. Amendment to the directive of 27.6.1967 on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances	21. 5.1973.	OJ L 167 of 25. 6.1973.
2. Directive on classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations (solvents)	4. 6.1973.	OJ L 189 of 11. 7.1973.
3. Directive on detergents	22.11.1973.	OJ L 347 of 17.12.1973.
4. Directive on the method of control of the biodegradability of anionic surfactants	22.11.1973.	OJ L 347 of 17.12.1973.
5. Declaration of the Council of the European Communities and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting in the Council of 22 November 1973 on the programme of action of the European Communities on the environment	22.11.1973.	OJ C 112 of 20.12.1973.
6. Adaptation to technical progress of the Council directive of 20.3.1970 concerning measures to be taken against air pollution by gases from positive ignition engines of motor vehicles	28. 5.1974.	OJ L 159 of 15. 6.1974.
7. Resolution on energy and the environment	3. 3.1975.	OJ C 168 of 25. 7.1975.
8. Decision concluding the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources (the Paris Convention) Decision concerning Community participation in the Interim Commission established on the basis of resolution No III of the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources	3. 3.1975.	OJ L 194 of 25. 7.1975.
9. Recommendation to the Member States regarding cost allocation and action by public authorities on environmental matters (applying the 'polluter pays' principle)	3. 3.1975.	OJ L 194 of 25. 7.1975.

¹ The date of adoption given is the date of *formal adoption* and not necessarily the date on which the Council of Ministers agreed the proposal.

10. Directive concerning the quality required of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water in the Member States	16. 6.1975.	OJ L 194 of 25. 7.1975.
11. Directive on the disposal of waste oils	16. 6.1975.	OJ L 194 of 25. 7.1975.
12. Resolution concerning a revised list of second category pollutants to be studied as part of the programme of action of the European Communities on the environment	24. 6.1975.	OJ C 168 of 25. 7.1975.
13. Amendment to the directive of 27.6.1967 on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances	24. 6.1975.	OJ L 183 of 14. 7.1975.
14. Decision establishing a common procedure for the exchange of information between the surveillance and monitoring networks based on data relating to atmospheric pollution caused by certain compounds and suspended particulates	24. 6.1975.	OJ L 194 of 25. 7.1975.
15. Decision adopting an indirect action programme for the management and storage of radioactive waste	26. 6.1975.	OJ L 178 of 9. 7.1975.
16. Directive on waste (framework directive)	15. 7.1975.	OJ L 194 of 25. 5.1975.
17. Resolution on the adaptation to technical progress of directives or other Community rules on the protection and improvement of the environment	15. 7.1975.	OJ C 168 of 25. 7.1975.
18. Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels (gas oil)	24.11.1975.	OJ L 307 of 27.11.1975.
19. Directive concerning the quality of bathing waters	8.12.1975.	OJ L 31 of 5. 2.1976.
20. Decision establishing a common procedure for the setting up and constant updating of an inventory of sources of information on the environment in the Community	8.12.1975.	OJ L 31 of 5. 2.1976.
21. Decision authorizing the Commission to participate in the negotiation of an outline Convention for the prevention of marine pollution in the Mediterranean	8.12.1975.	Not published in OJ.

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| 22. Commission recommendation to the Member States invited to attend the inter-governmental meeting in Barcelona | 8.12.1975. | OJ L 9 of 16. 1.1976. |
| 23. Proposal for a Convention for the Prevention of Chemical Pollution of the Rhine | 20. 1.1976. | OJ C 239 of 12.10.1976 |
| 24. Decision adopting a research and training programme (1976-80) for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of biology and health protection ('radiation protection' programme) | 15. 3.1976. | OJ L 74 of 20. 3.1976. |
| 25. Decision adopting a research programme (1976-80) for the European Economic Community in the environmental field (indirect action) | 15. 3.1976. | OJ L 74 of 20. 3.1976. |
| 26. Directive on the disposal of PCBs and PCTs | 5. 4.1976. | OJ L 108 of 26. 4.1976. |
| 27. Decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with the Council of Europe on the accession of the community to the European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport | 5. 4.1976. | Not published in OJ. |
| 28. Directive making a fifth amendment to Council directive of 23.10.1962 on the approximation of the rules of the Member States concerning the colouring matters authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption | 5. 4.1976. | OJ L 108 of 26. 4.1976. |
| 29. Directive amending for second time Council Directive 65/66/EEC laying down specific criteria of purity for the preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption | 4. 5.1976. | OJ L 126 of 14. 5.1976. |
| 30. Directive on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community | 4. 5.1976. | OJ L 129 of 18. 5.1976. |
| 31. Directive laying down the revised basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation | 1. 6.1976. | OJ L 187 of 12. 7.1976. |
| 32. Directive relating to the fixing of the maximum level of erucic acid in oils and fats intended for human consumption and in foodstuffs containing added oils or fats | 20. 7.1976. | OJ L 202 of 28. 7.1976. |

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| 33. Directive amending for 12th time Council Directive 64/54/EEC on preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption | 20. 7.1976. | OJ L 223 of 16. 8.1976. |
| 34. Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products | 27. 7.1976. | OJ L 262 of 27. 9.1976. |
| 35. Directive on the approximation the laws of the Member States restricting the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations | 27. 7.1976. | OJ L 262 of 27. 9.1976. |
| 36. Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs (framework directive) | 23.11.1976. | OJ L 340 of 9.12.1976. |
| 37. Directive on maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables | 23.11.1976. | OJ L 340 of 9.12.1976. |

Proposals agreed by the Council but not yet formally adopted

1. Directive on biological standards for lead and on screening the population for lead
2. Decision concluding the Bonn Convention on the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution
3. Decision concluding the Barcelona Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean
4. Resolution on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment

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Annex II

Selected bibliography

The General Reports of the European Communities have devoted the following sections to the Environment:

Fifth Report, 1971, pp. 242-245

Sixth Report, 1972, pp. 198-202

Seventh Report, 1973, pp. 235-241

Eighth Report, 1974, pp. 135-139

Ninth Report, 1975, pp. 136-139

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