



*European Communities  
Commission*

*Press Release*

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Statement by Mr Stanley Clinton Davis,  
Commissioner of the European Communities,  
responsible for Environment Policies,  
Brussels, 4 February 1987.

Commenting on a statement in the House of Commons yesterday (3 February) by Environment Minister, Mr William Waldegrave, that coastal bathing waters in all important resorts in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are to be included within the scope of the European Directive on bathing waters, Mr Stanley Clinton Davis said:

"This is a welcome development. We have had many complaints from people distressed at the state of beaches in the United Kingdom and legal proceedings are already under way concerning certain beaches. Within this context we have been having discussions with the British authorities and knew that an announcement was soon to be made. We will now be looking at the details of the government's plans to see how far they meet the requirements of the legislation.

"It is clearly unacceptable for a country with a coastline as long as Britain's to name only 27 beaches where the Community rules of cleanliness and hygiene should be applied, when countries such as France, Italy and Denmark have each designated more than 1,000 beaches and even Luxembourg has designated 39."

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Statement issued from the London Press and Information Office of the European Communities. For any follow-up, please call Robert Elphick on 01-222 8122.