



EUROPEAN UNION COMMITTED TO PROMOTING THE SAFE USE OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

Welcome to the first FESPA EU Newsletter informing you of latest developments and proposals on Health and safety, Employment and Environmental issues arising from the EU these last 4 weeks.

Special points of interest:

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A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All

Euskalduna Conference Centre, Bilbao, Spain, 24 November 2003

Representatives of the European Commission, EU Presidency, social partners and industry agree to intensify their efforts to promote the safe use of dangerous substances at work and stress the importance of clear communication especially to users in small and medium-sized enterprises.

Dangerous substances are found in nearly all workplaces. Across the EU 28 million workers inhale fumes and

are just some of the risks.

As part of a Europe-wide campaign to tackle this problem, the Italian Presidency of the EU and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work organised a major European conference, Working with dangerous substances: the European policy challenge. Key conclusions emerging from the conference included:

- Awareness about the hazards and how to combat them is scarce, especially in small and medium-sized

lay people.

- Successful substitution of dangerous substances is possible but it must be supported by expertise, targeted research and good practice information.
- The key to any successful approach to minimise the risks of working with dangerous substance lies in social dialogue. An example of this is where the European social partners have agreed on a guidebook for the safe handling of chemical substances in the cleaning industry.
- National authorities together with the EU need to develop an integrated chemicals policy not only on health and safety at work, but also on the environment, on consumer's health and on public health.
- With regards to the new Commission system REACH - all participants agreed upon the importance of having a single integrated system for the registration of new chemicals.
- Chemical producers are committed to a high level of safety and health, and will intensify efforts to provide more accurate information and to support SMEs to carry out risk assessment.
- Safety data sheet quality needs to be improved.



vapours for at least a quarter of their working time, while between 6 and 9 million people are exposed to biological agents at work. Skin complaints, lung disorders and cancers

enterprises (SMEs). Safe use of chemicals is highly dependent on the quality and efforts of communication from specialists to

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SAFE USE OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

Surveys have shown that many are not complying with regulations and are particularly poor in content regarding preventive measures in the workplace.

- Information about successful initiatives from the Member States needs to be transferred to EU level. More cooperation needed at EU level regarding sectoral initiatives, substitution policies, and targeted research.
- It will be the task of the European Agency for Health and Safety at Work to bring together

existing information about health risks from the use of dangerous substances and to spread them throughout the present and future Member States, together with risk avoidance and risk reduction strategies which have shown to be successful.

Key speakers at the colloquium included Roberto Maroni, Italian Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, Odile Quintin, Director General of the European Commission's DG Employment and Social Affairs and senior

representatives of the Economic and Social Committee and European social partners.

Commenting on the outcome of the Closing Event, the Agency's director Hans-Horst Konkolewsky said: "Thanks to the strong commitment and active involvement of national authorities, social partners and companies, the Agency's campaign on dangerous substances at work has succeeded in focusing attention on one of the most important potential health risks across the European Union. I am very pleased with the outcome of the Closing Event, as both the political decision makers and industry agreed a number of important steps to further promote the safe handling of dangerous substances at work."

web feature
at [http://
sme.osha.
eu.int/](http://sme.osha.eu.int/)
provides
access to a
wide range
of practical
information

AGENCY LAUNCHES ON-LINE OSH GUIDE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES

The European Agency has launched a new online guide of occupational safety and health advice for Europe's 19 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

According to European research, the fatal accident rate in enterprises with fewer than 50 workers is around double that of larger companies. And with more than 75 million EU workers employed in the SME sector, preventing work-related accidents and ill health in SMEs is one of the EU's most pressing safety and health issues.

As well as presenting information on the Agency's own activities such as its SME funding schemes and information projects, the web feature at <http://sme.osha.eu.int/> provides access to a wide range of practical information. This covers key risks such as accidents, dangerous substances (the focus of this October's European Week for Safety

and Health at Work campaign) and work-related stress, as well as important SME employment sectors such as construction and fisheries.

In addition to the web feature, a new CD-ROM provides details of more than 50 innovative accident prevention projects supported by Agency's first SME funding scheme. Promoting health and safety in Europe's SMEs is published in five languages (DE, EN, ES, FR and IT) and reports on a scheme, which an independent evaluation concluded has benefited more than 500,000 SMEs. The CD-ROM and web feature will help even more companies learn about the many innovative ideas for the information, training and exchange of good practice in the field.

The new web feature was unveiled on Wednesday 1 October at an international conference in Rome on oc-

cupational safety and health in SMEs organised by the Italian Presidency in cooperation with the EU. Speaking at the launch, Agency Director, Hans-Horst Konkolewsky, commented: 'SMEs employ two out of every three workers in the EU, but many have difficulties managing their safety and health obligations due to a lack of knowledge and resources. The Agency's web feature will help bridge this gap by allowing Europe's access to safety and health information, which is up-to-date and practical. We hope that it will contribute to improved safety and health performance across the sector.'

PACKAGING WASTE - RECYCLING

Brussels: 8 December 2003

Packaging waste: Recycling will be more than doubled

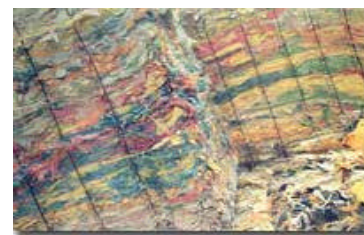
The European Commission welcomes the agreement reached by the European Parliament and Council conciliation committee to increase the minimum recycling targets for packaging waste from 25 to 55% by 2008. Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström commented: "I am happy that the agreement now opens the way for a substantial increase in the recycling of packaging waste. It will enable consumers to actively participate in recycling schemes and show their commitment to a more responsible management of packaging waste."

Details of the agreement

The agreement overcomes the last hurdles in a long debate on the revision of the 1994 Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. The final debate mainly focused on two issues: whether incineration of packaging waste should count as 'recovery' or not, and the deadline for Greece, Ireland and Portugal and accession countries to

achieve the targets of the Directive. Recent judgements by the European Court of Justice had clarified that incineration of municipal waste in incinerators is to be considered a disposal operation if the main purpose of the operation is to dispose of the waste. Recovery of the contained energy as heat or electricity would not change this classification. This also meant that packaging waste incinerated in such installations could no longer be counted for the recovery targets of the Packaging Directive. Several Member States had used incineration as part of their strategy to fulfil the EU targets and were now faced with falling short of the targets under the new interpretation. The solution found allows Member States to continue to count incineration for the EU targets but also foresees a general review of this issue in the framework of the EU Thematic Strategy on Waste Prevention and Recycling, which is in preparation. In a compromise between the European Parliament and the Council, the deadline for Greece, Ireland and Portugal

to achieve the targets has been set as 2011. This reduces the additional delay compared to the other 12 Member States from currently four to three years. The deadline for accession countries will be set under a new proposal which the Commission intends to issue shortly. With a view to the forthcoming accession, this will allow the new countries to fully participate in the decision making



Every year, Sorepa collects and recycles 100,000 tonnes of waste in France and Germany

process on their transition periods.

Next steps

The agreement by the conciliation committee now must be confirmed in third reading by Council and Parliament. The new Directive is likely to enter into force in early spring 2004 and will need to be transposed into national legislation by autumn 2005.

Overview of main changes

	1994 Directive	2001 Commission Proposal	Conciliation Agreement
Deadlines	EU 12: 2001 GR, IRL, P: 2005 Accessing States: varying transition periods (Accession Treaty)	EU 12 : 2006 GR, IRL, P: 2009 Accessing States: to be addressed after end of accession negotiation	EU 12: 2008 GR, IRL, P: 2011 Accessing States: to be set in a new proposal
Recovery target	50-65%	60-75%	60% (no maximum; incineration with energy recovery may be counted)
Recycling target	25-45%	55-70%	55-80%
Material targets	All materials 15%	Glass 60% Paper 55% Metals 50% Plastics 15% Wood --	Glass 60% Paper 60% Metals 50% Plastics 22.5% Wood 15%

CLIMATE CHANGE: More action required from Member States to cut greenhouse gas emissions

Brussels, 2 December 2003

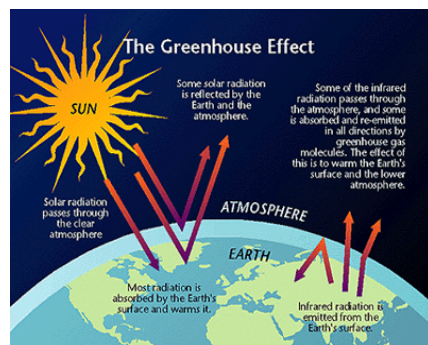
The European Union will miss its emission targets under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, unless EU Member States implement additional measures and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is the conclusion of a progress report just adopted by the European Commission. The report states that the decreasing emission trend since 1990 has been reversed in 2000 and 2001. Based on Member States projections the report concludes that with existing domestic policies and measures alone, EU as a whole and 13 out of 15 Member States would miss their emission reduction targets. Under the Kyoto Protocol, the EU has committed itself to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 8% from 1990 levels by 2008-2012. In letters to all 15 Ministers for Environment of the Member States, Margot Wallström, Commissioner for Environment, urges especially those Member States that have not yet done so to identify additional measures that are needed to meet the Kyoto targets. In addition the Member States should fully and speedily implement the measures adopted by the European Union.

"The figures in the report show that the policies and measures taken in the Member States so far will not be enough. Unless more is done, the EU as a whole and the majority of its Member States will miss their Kyoto emission targets," said Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström. "This is serious. Time is running out. Measures that the EU and Member States have not put in place over the next two or three years will not help us to achieve our Kyoto targets. I have written to the Member States to alert them to this fact. I propose that Member States and the EU identify in the course of next year the additional measures that are needed to meet our Kyoto targets. From the European Climate Change Programme we know that Kyoto can be implemented within existing technologies, provided we want to use

them."

In her letter Mrs Wallström underlines the necessity for Member States to:

keep the ambitious timeline for implementation of the EU emission trading directive and be restrictive when it comes to the allocation of emission allowances. In this respect, the Commission intends to adopt the monitoring guidelines, endorsed by the Monitoring Committee last week. This shows that the EU is sticking to the ambitious timeline set out in the directive. revisit and update national policies and measures within the next 12 - 18 month, as already currently underway by some Member States. include more substantive information into the projections on the supplemental use of the Kyoto flexible mechanism as was decided recently in Parliament and Council on the new monitoring



mechanism.

Mrs Wallström also announced a Communication during the first half of 2004 to develop options for further common and co-ordinated policies and measures under the European Climate Change Programme as a "complement to Member States action".

The new monitoring report states that if Member States did not take further measures, total emissions in the EU of the 6 greenhouse gases⁽¹⁾ widely considered to be contributing most to climate change are projected to increase by almost 2% from their 2001 levels⁽²⁾ by 2010⁽³⁾. In relation to 1990 levels that would represent an emission reduction of only 0.5% instead of the 8% that the EU committed itself to achieving. (See graph 1)

Situation in individual Member States

Under existing policies and measures only the **United Kingdom** and **Sweden** will reach their agreed share of the EU greenhouse gas emission target. (See graph 2) Assuming that no additional measures and policies are taken **Spain** would be the worst performer with projected emissions over 30% above its commitment. Also **Denmark** would be significantly above its commitment, even if correction is made for electricity trade in 1990. **Austria, Belgium** and **Ireland** are projected to emit 20% more emissions in 2010 than their commitments allow.

A number of Member States have already identified additional policies and measures, some of them based on the implementation of EU Directives, in order to further decrease emissions. According to their projections, total EU emissions would decline by another 6.7%, amounting to a fall of 7.2 % from 1990 to 2010. But even that would still leave a shortfall of almost 1% for the EU to meet its 8% commitment. Therefore, more stringent policies and measures from Member States are of utmost importance in order to comply with the Kyoto Protocol. The countries which would be able to reach their targets with the additional policies and measures that they have identified are **Finland, France, Greece** and **Ireland**. **The Netherlands** would be close to reaching it.

This year's projections of greenhouse gas emissions for the EU in 2010 show considerably higher emissions than the projections of the previous year. This is in particular due to the fact that **Germany**⁽⁴⁾ has considerably revised its former projections. Germany is now projecting itself to marginally missing its commitment with its existing policies and measures.

Candidate countries

The progress report also includes data currently available from the 10 countries acceding to the European Union next year. They all have ratified the Kyoto Protocol and have

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individual commitments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions between 6% (**Hungary** and **Poland**) and 8% (all remaining 8 accession countries) between 1990 and 2008 - 2012.

The emissions in these countries are projected to stay significantly below the levels from 1990 except in **Slovenia**, which would miss its target, and **Hungary**, which would just reach its commitment. The **Baltic States** would achieve the biggest reduction by cutting their emissions by more than 50% from 1990 to 2010.

European Climate Change Programme

The policies and measures resulting from the European Climate Change Programme, which the European Commission launched in March 2000, will assist Member States in reducing their emissions. The most important of these is the EU emission trading scheme which will start in 2005, covering almost 50% of the emissions of the EU. Under this scheme, the EU Member States will set limits on CO₂ emissions from energy-intensive companies by issuing allowances as to how much CO₂ these companies are allowed to emit. Reductions below the limits will be tradable.

Background

The data used for this analysis and projection was compiled from Member States and published by the EEA in May of this year. It shows that, after a significant initial decrease, greenhouse gas emissions in the EU went up by 0.3% between 1999 and 2000, and by another 1% between 2000 and 2001.

In 2001, the latest year for which figures are available, the EU's greenhouse gas emissions stood at 2.3% below their levels in 1990. A considerable part of the initial progress was due to large cuts in emissions in **Germany** (18.3%, about half of which is estimated to be the consequence of economic restructuring in former East Germany) and **the UK** (by 12%, part of which is due to the move from coal to gas) as well as **Luxembourg** (by 44.2%, much of which is a result of the restructuring of the steel industry).

PROPOSED NEW EU BATTERY DIRECTIVE

The European Commission has adopted a Proposal for a new Battery Directive, which will require the collection and recycling of all batteries placed on the EU market. It aims to prevent spent batteries ending up in incinerators or landfills and therefore to recover the various metals used in batteries. Due to the metals they contain, batteries pose environmental concerns when they are incinerated or landfilled. Since thousands of tonnes of different metals are used in battery production, their collection and recycling will also contribute substantially to saving natural resources. The proposed Directive aims to create an EU-wide framework for national battery collection and recycling schemes and will enhance the proper functioning of the internal market. An Extended Impact Assessment, carried out by the Commission in the preparation of this Proposal, has identified the proposed measures as the most sustainable policy options from environmental, economic and social points of view.

"By aiming to ensure that no spent batteries leak out of the collection and recycling system, this proposal will protect us and the environment from the risks that old batteries pose when they are incinerated or end up in landfills," said Margot Wallström, Commissioner for the Environment. "Discussions on a new Battery Directive have been on-going for several years and today we are presenting a concrete and well-balanced Proposal. Its implementation will encourage environmentally friendly behaviour from all actors involved in the battery life-cycle. Most importantly, consumers will have to contribute to environmental protection by bringing back their spent batteries to collection points."

EUROBAROMETER: DECLINE IN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE BUT CONTINUED STRONG SUPPORT FOR EU PRIORITIES

The latest Eurobarometer opinion poll, from which preliminary results were published on 9th December, reveals a general decline in public confidence since the previous survey carried out in the spring. This is reflected in growing concerns about the economic and employment outlook for next year and a decrease in confidence in public institutions in general. This increased sense of pessimism appears to have affected people's attitudes towards the European Union and its institutions. Despite this, those who feel their country's membership of the EU is a "good thing" still outnumber by more than three-to-one those who do not. The survey is notable for the very uneven shifts in opinion from Member State to Member State.

"These results highlight the growing sense of pessimism felt by people right across the European Union," commented Commission President Romano Prodi. "While public support for the key EU policies remains generally strong, we cannot afford to ignore the fact that this support has declined markedly over the past six months. Bitter disputes like that over the Stability and Growth Pact and unseemly horse-trading between national governments detract from the good work which is going on in the EU to build a better society for everyone."

The Eurobarometer survey for autumn 2003 was carried out in the 15 current Member States between 1 October and 7 November 2003. It questioned 16,082 people over the age of 15 about their attitudes to the EU and other issues of current political and social interest. The previous Eurobarometer was carried out in March and April and the full results were published in July.

The results published are preliminary and touch on just a cross section of the items covered. The full report will be available by February at the latest.

PRESENCE OF PERSISTENT CHEMICALS IN THE HUMAN BODY - RESULTS OF COMMISSIONER WALLSTROM'S BLOOD TEST

6 November 2003

The presence of persistent chemicals in the human body and their potential harmful effects is amongst the problems addressed by the European Commission's recent proposal for a new regulatory framework for chemicals. To illustrate this problem, Margot Wallström, European Commissioner for Environment, submitted a sample of her blood for testing. The results of these tests, which give a record of the chemicals to which Mrs Wallström has been exposed and which have accumulated in her body, have now been published.

Commissioner Wallström participated in a bio-monitoring survey conducted by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) sending 40 ml of her blood for screening to the Department of Environmental Sciences of Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. Mrs Wallström was checked for 77 man-made chemicals, which can be found in everyday products such as TV sets, carpets, furniture and food. The 77 chemicals fall into three groups: PBDEs (Poly Brominated Diphenyl Ethers), PCBs (Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls) and OCPs (OrganoChlorine Pesticides).

Chemicals belonging to these groups are in general very persistent (they do not break down and thus remain in the environment for a long time) and bio-accumulative (they build up in the human body and in animals over time). Persistent and bio-accumulative chemicals are also

passed on to children during pregnancy and breast-feeding.

These chemicals are often 'hormone disrupting', which means that they interfere with the hormone and reproductive systems of humans and animals that are exposed to them. Developing babies in the womb are particularly at risk. In animals, endocrine disrupters have even been known to cause gender changes.

Out of the 77 chemicals analysed, the laboratory in UK found 28 chemicals in Mrs Wallström's blood.

The survey covered a sample of 156 people from the UK (England, Scotland,

Both women and men were included, with ages ranging from 22 to 80 years. Such surveys are not frequently conducted and the results can, therefore, not easily be compared to any European-wide data.

PBDEs - Poly Brominated Diphenyl Ethers

Test results:

The blood test of Mrs Wallström contained a number of PBDEs. The predominant source of these is Penta-BDE and Octa-BDE.

Main features:

PBDEs are man-made chemicals used as flame-retardants in many household textiles such as curtains and materials used in sofas, cushions and mattresses. PBDEs are incorporated in the polyurethane foam used for furniture and upholstery. PBDEs are also used as flame-retardants in rigid plastic in cars and consumer goods such as electrical appliances, including TV and computer screen casings.

EU Legislation:

Both Penta-BDE and Octa-BDE have recently been banned under Directive 76/769 on restrictions of marketing and use. The ban will enter into force in the Member States on 15 August 2004. It will be incorporated into the new chemicals legislation system REACH, when this is adopted and has entered into force.

PCBs - Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls

Test results:

The blood test of Mrs Wallström contained a number of different PCBs.

Main features:

PCBs are industrial chemicals that were previously widely used in electrical equipment, such as transformers or

capacitors, because they don't burn easily. They were also used in paint additives and as flame retardants in plastics.

PCBs used to enter the air, soil and water during manufacture or product use.

EU legislation:

PCBs are banned under the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The Convention has been signed by 150 governments and the European Union. It will enter into force following the submission of the 50th instrument of ratification expected early 2004. Currently, 40 ratifications have been submitted.

The EU will be able to ratify the Stockholm

European Parliament have adopted the Commission proposal (presented in June 2003) for a Regulation to implement it. The Regulation provides for a total ban of all POPs that are intentionally produced, without any possibility of exemption. If adopted, no chemicals manufacturer in the EU may request an Authorisation under REACH for any of these POPs.

OCPs - OrganoChlorine Pesticides

Test results:

The blood test of Mrs Wallström contained substances from this group, in particular DDT.

Main features:

Organo-Chlorine pesticides are a group of pesticides developed and widely used between the 1950s and the 1970s. Many, including DDT, have been banned after they were belatedly found to be highly persistent in the environment and to cause long-term toxic effects in wildlife.

EU legislation:

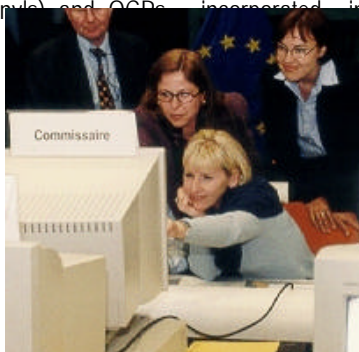
DDT was partly banned for agricultural uses in December 1978 (Directive 79/117/EEC) with exemptions for several minor uses (tree-nurseries, sugar beets, etc.). This Directive confirmed and harmonised several initiatives already taken by Member States since 1972. The total ban for agricultural uses occurred in March 1983, with Directive 83/131/EEC. Today, DDT is only used in the EU as an intermediate in the production of the pesticide dicofol, where it is handled in closed production systems.

DDT is a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP). It is covered by the Stockholm Convention and the Commission proposal of a Regulation to implement the Convention. When adopted, any intentionally produced DDT will be totally banned in the EU.

REACH

The presence of persistent and bio-accumulating substances in the blood test of Mrs Wallström, shows that nobody can escape contamination by chemicals. Despite intense research on some of the chemicals, there is a general lack of knowledge about the effects on human health and the environment of more than 99 % of the total volume of chemicals on the market. It is therefore essential to systematically examine all chemicals used in significant quantities in the EU.

REACH, a new framework for chemicals proposed by the Commission in October 2003, has been devised to tackle this problem. (Other items concerning REACH appear in this newsletter).



Margot Wallström

CHEMICALS SOCIAL PARTNERS SIGN JOINT STATEMENT ON INDUSTRY POLICY (CONCERNS ON REACH)

In November 2003, the European-level social partners in the chemicals sector signed a joint statement on the future of the industry, in the light of a new draft EU Regulation for this sector.

The European-level social partners in the chemicals sector - the European, Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers' Federation (EMCEF) and the European Chemical Employers' Group (CEEG) - signed a joint statement on a new policy for the chemicals industry on 27 November 2003, along with the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) industry association. The statement was signed at the end of a European social dialogue conference in Madrid and was prompted by concerns over a proposal for a new Regulation issued by the European Commission on 29 October 2003. Under the proposed new **Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals Regulation (REACH)**, enterprises that manufacture or import more

In the joint statement, the signatories stress the importance of the chemicals industry for the whole European economy and its employment, stating that this industry employs over 1.7 million people in Europe. They also maintain

that it is necessary to promote the continuous improvement of the performance of the European chemicals industry in the area of health, safety and the environment, although they note that the efforts of both employers and employees in this area have resulted in a safety performance which is well above the average for industry. Other areas highlighted as important in the industry include the development of qualifications through initial and continuous training and the need to attract highly qualified staff by offering attractive employment opportunities in the field of research and training.

The parties also state that they are concerned by the reactions among the chemicals industry and its employees to an impact analysis of the **REACH** proposal on the performance and employment of the chemical industry. They also fear that **REACH** will halt innovation at a crucial time for European economies. They state, however, that it is possible to make **REACH** compatible with the need for competitiveness and the economic and social goals set at the Lisbon European Council in March 2000 (EU0004241F) if the following conditions are met:

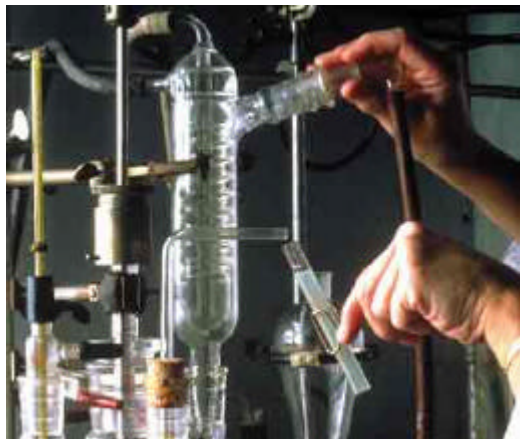
- priority should be given to competitiveness in order to be able to foster the economy, employment and the environment;
- attention must be paid to the protection of confidential business information against unfair competition;

- the creation of unnecessary bureaucratic burdens should be avoided, as should disproportionate obstacles affecting product ranges and the supply chain of chemicals;
- the limited resources of small and medium-sized enterprises to face additional administrative requirements need to be taken into account;
- the additional burden of adapting to a new system so soon after complying with the current one must be considered and reduced to a minimum;
- the new system must prioritise the required tasks. Chemicals of lesser risk, such as intermediates and polymers, should be exempted; and
- the future European agency for chemicals should have a central and leading role in implementing the legislation efficiently.

As a contribution to an adequate and balanced chemical product policy, the signatory parties state their intention to:

- promote information and training of employees in the chemicals industry and in 'downstream' industries on the safe use of chemical products;
- diffuse best practices in the chemicals and downstream industries;
- participate in and contribute to the evaluation of the efficiency of regulations by the authorities in this area; and

fully involve the new EU Member States, taking into consideration the additional burden for their industry in this area.



Reach proposals continue to cause concern

More than one tonne of a chemical substance per year would be required to register it in a central database. The aims of the proposed new Regulation are to improve the protection of human health and the environment while maintaining the competitiveness and enhancing the innovative capability of the EU chemicals industry.

ENVIRONMENT POLICY REVIEW

3 December 2003

First Environment Policy Review highlights need to speed up reforms to better protect the environment and promote sustainable development.

The European Commission earlier this month adopted its first Environment Policy Review. The main purpose of the Review was to report on developments since 2001 and highlight current priority issues in the EU and national environmental policies. The Review emphasised the need to speed up the pace of reforms to improve the state of the environment in Europe and internationally. The key message was the necessity to achieve a decoupling of economic growth from environmental pressures in line with sustainable development. The Review will become a central Commission instrument to regularly follow up and review EU environmental policy, address major implementation gaps and identify new policy challenges.

Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström said: "This first Environment Policy Review fills a major gap. For the first time, we have the systematic overview and analysis we need to check where we stand when it comes to environmental policies in the EU. This will help us create better policies and achieve sustainable

development i.e. promote economic growth without impairing environmental protection and social cohesion. The Review, which shows that we are committed to transparency and accountability, will also be an important instrument for our work with the other institutions and Member states. And it will be a handy tool for citizens to see what we do to protect the environment."

The Review sets out the new political context of EU environmental policy since the adoption of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy in 2001 and the entry into force of the 6th Environment Action Programme in 2002. It examines the most pressing threats to the environment and policy responses at EU level to date. It outlines the environmental policy mix required to make sustainable development a reality. Particular emphasis will need to be placed on the three cross-cutting objectives which underpin environmental policy, and which can be summarised as the three "I's": Integration of environmental concerns into other policies, Implementation and Information. Finally the Review considers the particular challenge of enlargement and developments at an international level.

Key messages

The Review stresses the necessity for increased efforts to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in line with the objectives set out in the 6th Environment Action Programme - the

EU's environmental policy agenda until 2012 - and the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. These efforts should focus on:

- ensuring efficient implementation of existing environmental legislation
- strengthening policy coherence and integration, including through increased use of market-based instruments
- basing our policies on sound knowledge and information
- continuing to promote sustainable development on a global scale
- making a success of enlargement.

The challenge of the years to come is to develop balanced policies that will stimulate growth and employment and at the same time protect the environment and human health from increasing pressures, to the benefit of current and future generations.

The Review illustrates the mix of instruments and approaches needed to address this challenge. Together with a renewed emphasis on integration, there is a need for larger and more systematic use of market-based instruments as a way to minimise the cost of environmental protection and to reduce the implementation gap.

It is also becoming

The challenge of the years to come is to develop balanced policies that will stimulate growth and employment and at the same time protect the environment and human health from increasing pressures, to the benefit of current and future generations.

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ENVIRONMENT POLICY REVIEW

(Continued from page 8)

increasingly clear that certain environmental objectives cannot be achieved based on EU action alone. What is needed is a joint effort from all levels of government in the EU and the complementary use of policy instruments to maximise synergies between action at EU, national, regional and local levels.

Progress made on priority issues

Climate change

Internationally, the EU has played a leading role in developing a multilateral response to global warming and implementing the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Under the Protocol, the EU has to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8% between 1990 and the commitment period 2008-2012.

The European Climate Change Programme launched in 2000 has been the key vehicle to identify measures to curb climate change. A major landmark measure is the EU emissions trading scheme, which, when implemented from 2005 onwards, will help reduce climate change at a lower cost to industry.

Despite this important progress, the situation remains of concern: considering the measures already in place at EU level and in the Member States as well as those that are currently planned, the EU as a whole and nine Member States will miss their Kyoto targets. Therefore, it is crucial that Member States swiftly implement the relevant EU measures recently set in place and in

parallel take additional action, notably through advancing integration of climate change into other policy areas.

Nature and bio-diversity

The EU has endeavoured to develop policy initiatives consistent with the ambitious objective of halting the decline in bio-diversity in Europe by 2010. However, progress has been mixed.

The two major pieces of legislation in this field, the Birds and the Habitats Directive, have recorded serious implementation difficulties. Infringements relating to the two Directives account for over a quarter of the instances where the Commission has taken legal action against Member States. The Commission has therefore stepped up efforts to provide guidance to Member States (for example on sustainable hunting) and to make better use of existing financial instruments to support nature conservation objectives. A key issue for the near future will be to ensure adequate funding for the management of Natura 2000 sites. In addition, it will be necessary to develop policy-relevant indicators on bio-diversity to get a clearer picture of current trends, which the Commission is in the process of doing together with the European Environment Agency.

On the integration front, the overhaul of the Common Agricultural Policy, CAP, in June 2003, which will decouple subsidies from production levels, is a significant achievement in

terms of nature protection. Also encouraging in this respect is the reform of Common Fisheries Policy.

Environment and health

Protection of human health from environmental threats has been a constant priority for EU environmental policy. In October, the Commission put forward the proposal for a new chemicals policy under which industry will have to provide information on the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment as well as on safe ways of handling them. Known as REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals), the new regulatory system will make a major contribution to improving health and environmental protection while at the same time maintaining the competitiveness of the chemicals industry and fostering innovation.

The Commission has also initiated the development of a new strategy that will tackle environmental risks for human health in a broader sense. While a comprehensive body of legislation addresses the vast majority of single pollutants, there is little knowledge about the combined effects of the various toxic agents in the environment, in particular on vulnerable groups of society such as children. Yet incidents of diseases caused by environmental factors are increasing. Preliminary WHO estimates suggest that almost a third of the global burden of disease can be attributed to

A major landmark measure is the EU emissions trading scheme, which, when implemented from 2005 onwards, will help reduce climate change at a lower cost to industry. Despite this important progress, the situation remains of concern: considering the measures already in place at EU level and in the Member States as well as those that are currently planned, the EU as a whole and nine Member States will miss their Kyoto targets.

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ENVIRONMENT POLICY REVIEW

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these factors.

The Environment and Health Strategy initiated in June seeks to generate and pool knowledge about the interaction between the environment and health to strengthen EU capacity for policymaking in this area.

Resources management

Finally the Review describes the policy developments in the area of resource management. Recent work has focused on the development of a strategy on the sustainable use of natural resources, which will assess how far policy choices are compatible with the overall decoupling objective. The elaboration of this strategy will build upon a

number of closely linked initiatives, such as the Integrated Product Policy, IPP, the strategy on waste prevention and recycling (under development) and the Action Plan on Environmental Technologies, which will soon be presented.

The Environment Policy Review in prospect

The 2003 Environment Policy Review is the first of a series. It should also be placed within the context of the Lisbon Strategy on economic and social renewal launched in 2000. The Lisbon Strategy was supplemented by a third, environmental, pillar following the adoption of the EU Sustainable

Development Strategy at the Gothenburg European Council in 2001. The Review will contribute to consolidating the environmental pillar of sustainable development in that context.

Over time, the Environment Policy Review will combine the examination of EU action with a review of main developments in Member States. To this end, one of the suggestions of the Review is to introduce the so-called "Open Method of Co-ordination" in the environmental field, with a view to mobilising EU institutions and Member States in a joint effort to better define common objectives to achieve common goals. Future editions of the Review will be instrumental in advancing this process.

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CLIMATE CHANGE - COP9

2 December 2003

COP9/Climate change: All Parties must maintain momentum to tackle the 21st Century's biggest environmental challenge.

The 9th Conference of Parties (COP9) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is currently taking place in Milan (1 - 12 December 2003). Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström is representing the European Commission at the ministerial session of the conference. One of the EU's main goals at COP 9 is building further confidence in the Kyoto-process. The EU expects all developed countries to undertake necessary steps, either to fulfil their

Kyoto commitments or to undertake comparable efforts to mitigate climate change. It is important to continue the informal exchange of views in relation to the period post-2012. All UNFCCC Parties need to explore possibilities on how to move the global fight against climate change forward.

Margot Wallström said: "COP9 will show again the international community's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol. 120 countries have by now ratified and are eager to implement the Protocol. We will intensify our dialogue with other Parties on how to strengthen efforts to implement the Kyoto Protocol and how to move forward beyond 2012. Disseminating advanced technologies is central to combating climate change

while promoting sustainable development."

The EU's key messages

The EU will take the following key messages to the conference:

Climate change is a serious problem that requires a global response in order to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention, comprising both mitigation of climate change and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

All Parties must play a full and effective role in tackling climate change. The majority of industrialised countries have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. These countries are busy introducing cost-effective policies and measures in order to

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reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with their commitments. The Parties that have decided not to ratify the Kyoto Protocol must act on the same terms as the other industrialized countries. The EU expects the US to fully and constructively engage in global action. Responsibility for further action post-2012 should be governed by the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities' and should be mindful of countries' differing 'capabilities'. Developed countries will need to continue to demonstrate leadership in tackling greenhouse gas emissions.

The EU believes that emission reductions for developed countries of greater magnitude than those included in the Kyoto Protocol are necessary if we want to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention.

All countries must act to ensure that greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere is stabilising at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. This means a strengthening of the emission reductions for developed countries. But, in future, it will also require gradually increasing action by developing countries following sustainable development paths. Some developing countries are already

taking action limiting their emissions. Many actions also produce significant co-benefits, e.g. improving air quality. This shows that there is considerable scope to take advantage of synergies between development and climate policies. Clearly, developing countries have the right to develop and evidently, their emissions will increase from current levels. The actual level of these greenhouse gas emissions will strongly depend on the development path that these countries choose to pursue.

The EU is conscious of the particular vulnerability of developing countries to the adverse impacts of climate change. Some of these impacts are now unavoidable and there is a need for all countries to engage in adaptation measures. The EU will continue to work with developing countries in building their capacities to adapt and in developing measures to respond effectively to the detrimental impacts of climate change. This will necessitate developing capacity building programmes and facilitating technology transfer through public and private initiatives.

COP9 agenda

COP9 should build further on the agreements made during previous COP meetings, i.e. continue

developing the practical implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. Moreover, awaiting the ratification of the protocol (by Russia) and its entry into



force, COP9 will allow Parties to demonstrate that they are determined to fight climate change globally. 120 Parties have ratified the Kyoto Protocol representing more than 2/3 of the world's population.

There are a number of technical issues on the COP-agenda to discuss where agreement could be reached. These are related to the Third Assessment Report, to adaptation and mitigation, to national communications for developing countries, guidance for the different funding mechanisms for developing countries, technology transfer, and sinks in the Clean Development Mechanism.

Ministerial session

The Ministerial high-level part of the conference consists of three consecutive round-tables, during which all the Parties will be able to share their views. The round-tables will be on technology, on adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development and on assessment of progress so far.

The round-table on technology has received the widest support and it is therefore likely to receive the highest attention. All Parties have

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All countries must act to ensure that greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere is stabilising at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

From the FESPA Secretariat

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CLIMATE CHANGE - COP9

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agreed on the importance of this issue, particularly on the energy sector and on renewables. The EU very much agrees with this approach as this is in line with the EU initiatives on the future for energy efficiency and the security of energy supplies. It is an essential component in the fight against climate change within the UNFCCC framework and its Kyoto Protocol.

The other two round-tables will allow countries to take stock of what has been done so far, and how to take the process forward in the future. The European Union will inform the other Parties of all the actions we have taken and how we are implementing measures to reach our targets. The developing countries will also have an opportunity to make other Parties aware of the many activities they undertake voluntarily that have a positive impact on climate.

Background

The 6th, 7th and 8th COP in The Hague and Bonn (2000), Marrakech (2001)

and Delhi (2002) worked out important details on how the Kyoto Protocol should be implemented in practice. They agreed particularly on specific rules and procedures for the so called "flexible mechanisms" (including International Emission trading and the Clean Development Mechanism), the compliance regime, the monitoring and reporting systems and the review under the Protocol.

The EU and the Kyoto Protocol

The EU places great weight on respecting all commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

The EU is working towards meeting the targets under the Protocol to limit or to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions during the first commitment period. To this end the EU has in place a monitoring mechanism that follows progress towards meeting commitments and allows the EU to identify where additional

action may be necessary. Individual Member States undertake similar monitoring and revise or reinforce their national climate programmes as necessary.

The EU is furthermore preparing common policies and measures in a number of key fields under the European Climate Change Programme. The EU directive on renewable energy sources sets a target of 22.1% for the share of electricity produced from renewables in total EU electricity consumption by 2010.

The EU emissions trading directive is now in force and the EU trading scheme will start in 2005. An amendment to this Directive on project mechanisms ('Linking Proposal') is currently being debated in the European Parliament so as to enable emission reductions generated by emission limitation projects outside the EU (i.e. Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism) to be used within the EU emission trading system.

Table: Total CO₂- equivalent emissions, the emissions per capita and the emissions per GDP (in purchase power) for 2000 (Source: World Resource Institute WRI)

	Emissions (Mio t CO ₂)	% of world	per Capita	per GDP (Mio t CO ₂ /cap)	Population (in mio)	GDP (in mio \$ PPP)
US	6.878,23	20,00	24,15	710,51	286,00	9.680.850,00
China	4.920,50	14,32	4,02	1.041,56	1.262,00	4.724.163,00
EU	3.982,08	11,59	10,61	446,84	376,00	3.911.558,00
Rusia	2.044,11	5,95	13,90	2.077,63	146,00	983.864,00
India	1.797,42	5,23	1,83	648,25	1.016,00	2.772.730,00
Japan	1.323,09	3,85	10,24	412,51	127,00	3.207.344,00
Brazil	1.111,17	3,23	6,58	900,72	170,00	1.233.633,00