

1990 in electricity generation. The development of nuclear energy for electricity production has greatly contributed to the reduction of CO₂ emissions.

In the absence of new nuclear power stations which were to have been built in the framework of the Equipment Plan 1988-1998 for electricity generation, the Union des Exploitations Electriques et Gazières (Association of electricity and gas producers, UEGB) points out that CO₂ emissions and the use of fossil fuels will increase and thus partly counteracts the limitation of CO₂ emissions which so far has been achieved. The building of combined cycle gas power stations can at best only slightly slow down this trend.

The Law of 8th August 1988 reorganises the responsibilities of the central government and the regions, effective 1st January 1989: its introduction has caused difficulties in establishing new environmental policies as the implementation of environmental regulations had been fully transferred to the regions. Procedures are made more cumbersome by the setting up of new structures in the regions. A co-ordination process in the field of environment is being considered to associate the Administration for Energy, the regions and the Secretariat of State for the Environment.

To meet the requirements for internal coherence and also to comply with international commitments, the various authorities responsible for environmental and energy policies are endeavouring to improve co-ordination with one another: the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Secretariat of State for Energy, External Relations, Public Health and the Secretariat of State for the Environment.

3. Relevant Studies

- "Pollution atmosphérique dans le domaine de l'énergie" — Programme Energie — Convention No. 87-15, Francis Altdorfer. This study which is already available will be updated and data on CO₂ will be included.
- A team of scientific researchers has been set up recently through a joint initiative from the Free University of Brussels, Liège University and the Belgian Space and Aeronautics Institute to identify the various atmospheric pollutants responsible for the climate changes and study their long-term developments, including a systematic survey of various monthly and seasonal variations in pollutant levels.