

## FRANCE

### 1. Official Position

**Action Principles:** France feels that in order to build up and maintain the general support essential for success, a certain number of principles must be observed:

- Responsibility and preponderant role of the industrialised countries;
- The necessary participation of all countries from the very beginning;
- Equitable sharing between countries or major regions of the objectives established;
- The greatest possible harmonization of the measures adopted in order to avoid the distortions of competition; and
- Consideration of the specific needs of the developing countries.

**Establishment of Limitation Objectives:** France believes that all gas emissions which contribute to the greenhouse effect should be limited but that carbon dioxide deserves special attention because:

- It is mainly responsible for the additional anthropogenic greenhouse effect;
- It remains for a very long time in the atmosphere once it has been emitted and this period becomes still longer as a result of the weakening of the ocean's role as a sink and as the warming effect increases;
- The reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as distinct from other gases requires important structural modifications in our economies, harmonized at the international level;