

- in order to introduce consistency in the measures to be taken in the various sectors of the economy and regarding the different greenhouse gases, France has endeavoured to examine, at national level, all the actions whose cost is lower than or equal to a reference level expressed in ecus per ton carbon equivalent whose emission can be avoided (or which has been removed from the atmosphere).
- this examination has also led to the adoption of measures designed to modify the long-term trends of net anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, even if the latter had only a quite low impact by the year 2000. This is particularly the case of measures aimed at strengthening the thermal regulation of buildings or encouraging storage of carbon in forests and in wood products.
- the experience of the European Union internal market demonstrates that many measures cannot be implemented effectively unless they are coordinated in a sufficiently large area. Therefore initiatives which are today a matter for Community level are particularly important and effective in many areas such as transports, taxation on fuels, various regulations (notably in environmental matters) and the Common Agricultural Policy.
- bearing in mind the policies and measures adopted and those which will have to be introduced at European Union level, emission forecasts allow it to be estimated that France should reduce to their 1990 level its net aggregated greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O) in 2000. It is however to be emphasized that there is a considerable margin of uncertainty regarding the forecasts of CO₂ emissions by the year 2000, in the order of more or less 7%. *Irrespective of the programme adopted*, this uncertainty is tied, inter alia, to economic growth, the price of oil, the availability of nuclear plants and the climate. For the other greenhouse gases (CH₄, N₂O), assessment uncertainties make emission forecasts even more imprecise.