

## ITALY

### 1. Official Position

The Italian Chamber of Deputies passed a non-binding resolution in April 1990 asking for a 20 per cent reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in Italy by 2005 which, if consistent with the Toronto targets, would be based on 1988 levels. The resolution also called on the Government to work with other governments to revise the Montreal protocol to ban CFCs by the year 2000.

The Italian Environment Minister announced at the Bergen conference (15 May 1990) that Italy intended to stabilize carbon dioxide emissions at current levels by the year 2000 and reduce them by 20 per cent by 2005. Italy also intends to eliminate CFC production by 1997 and achieve a net forest growth by 1995.

The Italian government has analysis under way regarding the possible effects of policy instruments such as incentives and taxation to reduce consumption and improve efficiency. Possible measures include taxes to reflect environmental impacts, use of more natural gas and other fuel substitution options and expanded exploitation of renewable sources of energy. The government believes that nuclear energy could play a role in the future with new and safer technologies, but its future use depends on specific conditions being met concerning containment, radiation releases and the solution of problems of radioactive waste and de-commissioning. (Italian voters approved three 1987 referenda questioning nuclear power as a significant contributor to the nation's energy mix.)

On 24th November 1990, the Council of Ministers endorsed a revised National Energy Plan (PEN), which sets out a programme of activities aimed at improving energy efficiency and promoting energy conversion technologies that do not contribute to the build up of greenhouse gases. On 20th December 1990 the Italian Senate approved legislation enabling the Government and the State energy bodies to carry out the Plan. The Plan provides for measures that are intended to affect consumer behaviour in the short term and those that will affect energy consumption in the medium term.