

2. The Council notes that:

- AGBM-6 (March 3-7, 1997) is the last AGBM before a draft negotiating text has to be circulated (deadline is June 1, 1997);
- the Council has reiterated the need for the Community to play a leading role.

3. The Council recalls its conclusion that the equitable sharing of the objective within the Community should be discussed and agreed in parallel with the decision on proposals by the Community for quantified reduction objectives and policies and measures for inclusion in the protocol (Council conclusions December 1995).

4. The Council recalls that:

- existing commitments of the Community are to stabilise CO₂ emissions at 1990 level by 2000, which means that this level cannot be exceeded after the year 2000 (Council conclusions June 1995 and December 1995);
- It has concluded that commitments for significant overall reductions of greenhouse gas emissions after the year 2000 below 1990 level should be included in a protocol (Council conclusions June 1996);
- It has concluded that global average temperatures should not exceed 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial level and that therefore concentration levels lower than 550 ppm CO₂ should guide global limitation and reduction efforts (Council conclusions June 1996), which calls for early action on emission reduction and indicates the need for significant reductions from industrialised countries in the 2000-2020 time-frame;
- national commitments by a number of Member States for the period after the year 2000 are an important contribution towards reductions of greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 level for the Community as a whole.