

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

1. Official Position

The Community and its Member States agreed at the Joint Energy and Environmental Council on 29th October 1990 on a common climate change policy which supports the scientific view of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with regard to the natural greenhouse effect, increasing emissions and concentrations of greenhouse gases and global warming. The Member States of the EC fully support this view and believe that the problem of man-induced climate change, being a global challenge, can only be countered effectively through the broadest international collaboration.

The European Community and Member States, assuming that other leading countries undertake commitments along the same lines and acknowledging the targets identified by a number of Member States for stabilizing or reducing emissions by different dates, are willing to take actions to reach stabilization of total CO₂ emissions by 2000 at 1990 levels in the Community as a whole. Member States which start from relatively low levels of energy consumption, and therefore have low emissions measured on a per capita or other appropriate basis, are entitled to have CO₂ targets and/or strategies corresponding to their economic and social development, while improving the energy efficiency of their economic activities.

The above objective should be achieved in Member States principally by fully exploiting the potential of energy conservation and energy efficiency of economic activities as well as the diversification of energy supply towards energy sources with lower CO₂ emissions. Member States should make efforts to achieve the objective taking advantage of their individual possibilities to use "no regret" measures. In particular EC and national energy and transport policies should be reviewed, adopting measures, where appropriate, along the following lines: