

POLAND

1. Position

The Polish Government has officially defined its position on greenhouse gases policy commitments during the Nordwijk Ministerial Conference (1989) where the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry stated that the entire activity being actually undertaken in Poland in the field of environmental protection should have the effect in the next ten to 15 years *inter alia* of reaching the emission levels of 1988 in the period 2005 to 2010. Also during the Second World Climate Conference in Geneva (1990), the Polish representative repeated the above position declaring that Poland would be aiming at achieving, by the year 2000, the stabilization of the CO₂ emissions at the level of the years 1988 to 1989 and that the efficiency of these efforts depended on the progress in the stabilization of the Polish economy and the ability to have access to advanced and environmentally-sound technologies.

2. Factors Influencing Decisions

Poland is highly dependent on coal both for energy consumption and for trade. In 1989, over 78 per cent of TPES was coal. In 1990 Poland was also the third largest non-OECD coal exporter and sixth in the world. Poland is extracting and consuming ever increasing shares of lignite, which can adversely affect air pollution emissions.

Poland is modernising its entire economy but the transition is slow and expensive. Industry has traditionally been highly energy-intensive, using domestic coal for its fuel supply. Intense coal use is recognised to have been a major cause of environmental degradation. In 1990, the Ministry of Environmental Protection estimated that it would take \$20 billion to clean up existing environmental problems over the next 20 years. Restructuring, modernisation and switching to cleaner fuels will undoubtedly reduce carbon dioxide emissions but the investment costs are high. However, as the economy develops, total energy use and emissions could rise as the demand for consumer products rises.