



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



9959/08 (Presse 149)

PROVISIONAL VERSION

PRESS RELEASE

2874th Council Meeting

Environment

Luxembourg, 5 June 2008

President

Mr Janez PODOBNIK

Minister for the Environment and Spatial Planning of
Slovenia

P R E S S

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Main results of the Council

The Council held policy debates on main aspects of the **climate action and renewable energy package**, and on a proposal aimed at **reducing CO2 emissions from cars** in the EU, in the context of the fight against climate change.

The Council held also an exchange of views on **genetically modified organisms**.

Without discussion, the Council adopted a regulation on **exports and imports of dangerous chemicals**

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¹ • Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
• Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
• Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

PARTICIPANTS

The governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Ms Hilde CREVITS

Flemish Minister for Public Works, Energy, the Environment and Nature

Bulgaria:

Mr Chavdar GEORGIEV

Deputy Minister for the Environment and Water

Czech Republic:

Mr Jan DUSÍK

First Deputy Minister for the Environment, International Affairs, Legislation and Public Administration Section

Denmark:

Mr Troels Lund POULSEN

Ms Connie HEDEGAARD

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Climate and Energy

Germany:

Mr Sigmar GABRIEL

Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety

Estonia:

Mr Jaanus TAMKIVI

Minister for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr John GORMLEY

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Greece:

Mr Stavros KALOGIANNIS

State Secretary for the Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works

Spain:

Ms Elena ESPINOSA MANGANA

Mr José Ramón GARCIA

Minister for Minister for the Environment and the Rural and Marine Environment

Minister for Environment, Water, City Planning and Housing of Autonomous Valencian Community

France:

Mr Jean-Louis BORLOO

Ministre d'État, Minister for Ecology and for Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning

Italy:

Ms Stefania PRESTIGIACOMO

Minister for the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea

Cyprus:

Mr Panicos POUROS

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

Latvia:

Mr Raimonds VEJONIS

Minister for the Environment

Lithuania:

Mr Aleksandras SPRUOGIS

Undersecretary, Ministry of Environment

Luxembourg:

Mr Lucien LUX

Minister for the Environment, Minister for Transport

Hungary:

Mr Lajos OLÁH

Ministry of the Environment and Water Management

Malta:

Mr George PULLICINO

Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs

Netherlands:

Ms Jacqueline CRAMER

Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment

Austria:

Mr Josef PRÖLL

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment
and Water Management

Poland:

Mr Maciej NOWICKI

Minister for the Environment

Portugal:

Mr Humberto ROSA

State Secretary for the Environment

Romania:

Mr Silviu STOICA

State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and
Sustainable Development

Slovenia:

Mr Janez PODOBNIK

Minister for the Environment and Town and Country
Planning

Slovakia:

Mr Jaroslav JADUŠ

State Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment

Finland:

Ms Paula LEHTOMÄKI

Minister for the Environment

Sweden:

Mr Andreas CARLGREN

Minister for the Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr Hilary BENN

Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs

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Commission:

Mr Stavros DIMAS

Member

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

The Council held an exchange of views aimed at improving the reflection on a number of policy issues related to genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The policy debate was conducted on the basis of a contribution provided by the French delegation.

This initiative was welcomed by all member states and by the Commission. It was considered as a valuable contribution for continuing examination, in particular, of the following outstanding aspects:

- reliable risk assessments on GMOs, particularly as regards environment protection;
 - improvements in the functioning of scientific expertises;
 - definition of labelling thresholds for GMO seed at European level;
 - modalities by EU member states to control plantations of authorised GMOs;
 - possibilities of strengthen cooperation between member states, the Commission and scientific bodies, taking into account socio-economic impacts of GMOs
- The Council also held a brief exchange of views at its meeting on 3 March, on the basis of a document submitted by the French delegation ([7128/08](#)).

The French delegation expressed its intention of taking forward reflections on this subject during the next EU Presidency.