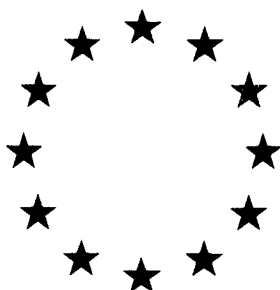


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For consideration at the
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Ministers' Deputies
(December 1990 - A level)

6th EUROPEAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE ENVIRONMENT

(Brussels, 11 and 12 October 1990)

REPORT
by the Secretary General, prepared in accordance
with Resolution (71)44 of the Committee of Ministers

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I. SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT, PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS RESOLUTION (71) 44

1. The sixth European Ministerial Conference on the Environment was held in Brussels on 11 and 12 October 1990 at the invitation of the Belgian authorities.

2. All 23 member States of the Council of Europe sent representatives, 17 of whom were either Ministers or State Secretaries. Nine non-member States were represented by observers, six of whom were Ministers.

The conference was also attended by representatives of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the Commission of the European Communities and five international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental.

The list of participants will be found in Appendix 2.

3. Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, opened the conference on Thursday 11 October 1990 at 10 am.

4. On a proposal by the Luxembourg delegation, seconded by the Turkish delegation, Mrs Miet SMET, Belgian State Secretary for the Environment and Social Emancipation, was elected to the Chair of the conference. At the proposal of the Portuguese delegation, seconded by the Norwegian delegation, Mr Herbert WILLE, Deputy Head of Government of Liechtenstein, was elected Vice-Chairman of the conference.

5. In the course of proceedings, the Heads of Delegation held an open discussion and took part in a colloquy with the representatives of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

6. The proceedings of the sixth conference were organised as follows:

- adoption of the European Conservation Strategy;
- discussion of two themes:
 - a. soil protection and follow-up action to be taken on the feasibility study;
 - b. the Bern Convention and the implications of its extension to East European and African countries.

7. After their deliberations, the Environment Ministers adopted three resolutions, the texts of which are set out in Appendix 3 below.

8. Part II of this document consists of a summary report of the conference proceedings prepared by the Secretariat under its own responsibility.

II. SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

A. OPENING SITTING

9. After opening the conference and welcoming all the participants, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe described the two challenges facing our society as the century draws to a close : firstly, protection of the human and natural environment and, secondly, a fair and balanced husbanding and sharing of resources in a North/South perspective. In her opinion, it was impossible not to subscribe to the idea of balanced development on a world scale and this meant that we had to realise it was absolutely necessary and urgent to transform our economic system in order to exploit resources equitably without upsetting the ecological balance which was the only guarantee of the ultimate survival of our society. The common nature of the difficulties confronting developed and developing countries alike was illustrated by the fact that many environmental problems took no account of national frontiers, with the result that international action alone was capable of meeting the challenges facing us.

10. In this state of affairs, what role could the Council of Europe play in the future ? Mrs LALUMIERE thought action was possible at three levels :

- i. firstly, at the level of the whole continent of Europe, where the Council of Europe was geographically synonymous with the Western states and was gradually extending to the states of Central and Eastern Europe. The stakes were enormous and fully appreciated by the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. After quoting certain events such as the pan-European Parliamentary Conference on the Protection of the Environment held in Vienna and the pan-European Ministerial Conference on the protection of Forests held in Strasbourg, the Secretary General said that the European Conservation Strategy, due to be adopted at the conference, demonstrated that the Council of Europe had the capacity to draw up an environmental conservation policy which was both global and long-term in character. It was important that the organisation should be able to play a focal role which would have worldwide repercussions;
- ii. secondly, at world level where the Council of Europe, despite its regional character, could make a useful contribution towards solving the very grave problems besetting the planet, not least by providing a framework, in appropriate cases, for exchanging views and information between member states on problems dealt with in the global context, in order where possible to achieve common positions through concertation. This function was already being performed in the fields of human rights and legal co-operation. There was no reason why the same should not happen with regard to the environment;
- iii. lastly, the Secretary General highlighted the importance of the Council of Europe's responsibilities towards its own member states; such co-operation remained the fundamental purpose of the organisation.

11. After reviewing some of the Council's previous activities, Mrs LALUMIERE expressed the view that the organisation could take practical steps to ensure that the right to a healthy environment was acknowledged and applied as an individual right guaranteed by an appropriate international instrument. This would represent a qualitative leap forward in environmental protection, with a view to preserving and developing the spiritual and moral values which were the common heritage of the European peoples and which had given rise to the concepts of individual liberty, political freedom and the rule of law.

12. In conclusion, Mrs LALUMIERE hoped that the conference would produce tangible political results commensurate with the two major themes it was due to discuss. Advantage should be taken of the current climate in which environmental issues loomed very large and public opinion was favourably disposed. It was essential that the conference should take a step in the right direction.

13. In her speech of welcome, Mrs Miet SMET, Belgian State Secretary, after describing the far-reaching institutional reforms carried out in her country, reiterated the reasons which had prompted her to confirm the Belgian invitation to the present meeting issued at the Lisbon conference. Firstly, the problems of the qualitative and quantitative protection of soil had proved to be a matter of keen concern for the majority of member states present at Lisbon. Since having been given responsibility for the environment sector, she had been confronted on several occasions with soil problems, especially in the Mediterranean region, both in the Community context and otherwise. But the countries of both Central and Northern Europe were also faced with serious problems of soil contamination and, to a lesser extent, erosion. Moreover, the costs of de-polluting soils were considerable.

14. In conclusion, Mrs SMET expressed her pleasure at being able to host the member states of the Council of Europe, a number of countries from Central and Eastern Europe and from Africa, together with representatives of international organisations.

15. Having been elected to chair the conference, Mrs SMET described the manner in which she intended to organise the proceedings.

16. The agenda (MEN 6 (90) 1) was adopted and is reproduced in appendix 1.

B. WORKING SITTINGS

Adoption of the European Conservation Strategy (MEN 6 (90) 5)

17. After pointing out that the conference had been given the task of adopting the Strategy as an official Council of Europe text, the Secretary General explained that the Committee of Ministers had for the first time relinquished its power to adopt a recommendation by delegating this power to another body, in application of one of the provisions of Resolution (89) 40 on the future role of the Council of Europe in European construction. The authority delegated was therefore restricted to adopting the text of the Strategy, no amendment to the text being possible. Delegations could, however, make explanatory declarations of votes.

18. As with all recommendations to governments, the text of the Strategy should be adopted unanimously in terms of the votes cast, which should represent the majority of representatives having the right to sit on the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, namely a minimum of 12 States.

19. Several delegations took part in the ensuing discussion, the main conclusions of which are summarised below. The European conservation Strategy:

- i. was appropriate and timely and the Council of Europe's initiative was warmly welcomed;
- ii. was a comprehensive and balanced document covering all aspects of the problems entailed by the proper and lasting protection of the environment. It set clear guidelines which could be incorporated by states into their environment policies; it therefore deserved support;
- iii. provided an instrument to promote international co-operation;
- iv. was also an instrument which in no way conflicted with global development.

20. Certain delegations expressed some reservations, however:

- i. the Swiss delegation expressed a reservation on section VIII of the General Elements concerning economic aspects and environmental audits. This item was incompatible with the constitutional law of the Swiss Confederation and the necessary amendment could not be carried through within a reasonable lapse of time;
- ii. the Icelandic delegation felt that the text of section XIII of the Sectoral Aspects (waste and dangerous substances) was too weak. The Iceland Minister thought that a stronger position should be taken with regard to nuclear waste by proposing the adoption of stricter international regulations with regard to manipulation and storage. Situations varied widely from country to country and allowance should therefore be made for different approaches in finding solutions to environmental problems, even for states which had approved the Strategy;
- iii. after quoting various examples from his own country (over-grazing, threats to forests, lakes, endangered species, biological diversity etc), the Swedish delegation thought that the Strategy should devote greater attention to the problems of wetland conservation, which appeared in its national strategy, and should insist more emphatically on the importance of European conventions and other instruments of wider scope.

21. At the invitation of the Chair, the Conference unanimously adopted the Recommendation on the European Conservation Strategy.

22. In response to a remark by a representative of the Parliamentary Assembly pointing out that the text of the Strategy had never been discussed at an Assembly session, the Conference expressed the hope that the parliamentary body of the Council of Europe might be more closely associated with the activities of the CDPE and of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention. It invited the Committee of Ministers to make the appropriate arrangements.

Theme No. 1: Protection of soil and follow-up
to the feasibility study
(MEN 6 (90) 2)

23. The Chair, in the person of Mrs Miet SMET, introduced the theme of soil protection, referring to the "feasibility study on possible national and/or European actions in the field of soil protection", the text of which had been drawn up by the Committee of Experts on Soil Conservation set up by the Steering Committee for the Conservation and Management of the Environment and Natural Habitats (CDPE).

24. Expressing the hope that the discussion on this theme could be brought to a conclusion at this conference, Mrs SMET described the four aspects which she held to constitute the main components of the problem of soil conservation:

- i. impairment of soil by a source of pollution such as air pollution, waste products or the manipulation of dangerous substances;
- ii. soil degradation by agriculture. In both this and the foregoing case, legal instruments and other measures allowing for prevention or compensation already existed but needed to be reinforced;
- iii. losses of soil through land use for town and country planning purposes;
- iv. the physical loss of soil and arable land together with other consequences of erosion, which seemed to be the aspect most scantily covered by national and international action.

25. It was therefore highly urgent for the Council of Europe to take action.

26. After a number of comments and/or reflections on the subject, almost all delegations expressed views on the four possible forms of action proposed in the feasibility study, namely:

- i. reviewing and modernising the European Soil Charter of 1972;
- ii. preparation of a new recommendation;
- iii. adoption of a specific Council of Europe work programme;
- iv. conclusion of an outline convention.

27. The following points were raised during the discussion:

- i. the problem of soil conservation was undoubtedly one which deserved high priority and would become increasingly important. The erosion phenomena which were particularly characteristic of the Mediterranean region were tending to appear and spread throughout the major part of Europe. Several delegations stressed the major impact on groundwater;
- ii. a global approach should be adopted to solving these problems by co-ordinating the varied and often sectorial measures applied at national and Community levels. Several countries were in fact enacting their own specific legislation or devising national action programmes for soil conservation;
- iii. the economic consequences of protecting and above all restoring soils were difficult to evaluate accurately but were almost invariably very high. Could the relevant costs be borne?
- iv. while certain delegations felt that large-scale and binding intergovernmental action was premature, given the complexity of the problems concerned and the shortcomings, or indeed non-existence of national legislation, others recommended determined action based on binding standards in view of the urgency of the situation;
- v. irrespective of the type of action decided on, it was obvious that constant attention should be paid to the projects being evolved or carried out in the sphere of international co-operation, above all:
 - . the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979),
 - . the draft World Convention on Biological Diversity,
 - . the draft World Convention on the Greenhouse Effect.

European Community directives and other acts also deserved special attention in order to avoid any contradiction or duplication. Appreciable support might be obtained from the European Environment Agency;

- vi. while there was complete unanimity regarding the need for some kind of Council of Europe action, opinions varied widely, on the contrary, regarding the solution to be adopted:
 - one delegation voiced a preference for a coherent Council of Europe work programme;
 - several delegations spoke in favour of the immediate drafting of an outline convention;
 - the other delegations preferred a recommendation or a revised Soil Charter, some of this group agreeing that the ultimate aim should be a convention.

A few delegations also favoured the simultaneous preparation of an outline convention and a recommendation (or revised charter).

28. The delegations' comments were summed up by the Chair as follows:

- i. there was unanimous agreement for a global, integrated political initiative to improve soil conservation. The proposed action should take place at both national and international levels and improve on current efforts which were recognised as being inadequate; the 1972 European Soil Charter was no longer effective enough;
- ii. the opinions expressed would indicate that action should proceed by progressive stages. The initial phase should consist of drafting a recommendation based on a work programme drawn up within the Council of Europe; this would lead, in the light of experience and the results achieved, to an outline convention which it might be possible to draw up for the next ministerial conference.

The Ministerial Conference expressed its approval of this approach.

Theme No. 2: The Bern Convention and its implications following its extension to the countries of Eastern Europe and Africa
(MEN 6 (90) 3)

29. In presenting her report, the Secretary General referred directly to the problems which were bound to arise with the extension of the Bern Convention.

- scope: was European wildlife alone concerned or could African species also be taken into consideration?
- establishing criteria: what standards should be used to determine whether or not an African country could be invited to accede?
- for the African countries which were already Contracting Parties: was it possible to include their threatened species in the appendices and, accordingly, study their natural habitats?

30. It was certain that new accessions to the convention would also raise financial problems and Mrs LALUMIERE appealed to the Environment Ministers to consider the possibility of financial contributions towards the convention, independently of the general budget of the Council of Europe; a special account existed for this purpose and some donations had already been received, which was encouraging for the future.

31. Lastly, Mrs LALUMIERE expressed her concern at the relations between the Bern Convention and the European Community proposal for a Council Directive on the protection of natural and semi-natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna, which more or less reproduced the contents of the convention and was designed to simplify the legal procedures enabling the Commission to apply the convention.

32. While welcoming the Community's intention, the Secretary General thought that certain risks were entailed:

- in the final wording of the Directive, there might be provisions which differed from those of the Bern Convention, which could create divergences;
- the Directive's creation of a standing committee similar to the one set up by virtue of the Convention; this new committee would be responsible for monitoring the application of the Directive.

Despite these dangers, Mrs LALUMIERE sincerely hoped that both instruments would be complementary, so that any duplication or overlapping of activities might be avoided.

33. In the view of all delegations taking part in the discussion, the Bern Convention was an irreplaceable instrument for the protection of species and their habitats. The Convention was nevertheless part of the international context and should not supersede existing instruments. For this reason, it was necessary for the scope of international legal instruments to be clearly defined, in order to avoid as far as possible any overlapping between existing conventions.

34. The extension of the Bern Convention to other states was welcomed by the majority of delegations, but great precautions should be taken. The Convention had to be applied through a realistic programme based on practical experience; its extension should be carried out on a case-by-case basis. The essential aim of the Convention was the protection of "European" species of flora and fauna.

35. The following comments were put forward by delegations regarding extension :

- (i) it was desirable, since the Convention would be more effective if its geographical scope was wider;
- (ii) it should be applied with a twofold purpose: international solidarity and the protection of migratory species;
- (iii) it was inevitable in the case of countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the example set by Hungary should be followed; with regard to African countries, a case-by-case approach should be adopted taking account of all aspects of the problem, both ecological and financial.

36. Nevertheless, the extension of the Bern Convention was bound to raise difficulties, especially with regard to funding. For this reason, while delegations were in favour of a joint fund to promote the application of the Convention and the fulfilment of specific objectives, they also expected the Council of Europe to make an additional financial effort towards the full achievement of the aims of the Convention.

37. As for complementarity between the Council of Europe Convention and the future European Community Directive, the delegations felt that it would be necessary to establish effective co-ordination between both instruments; the Directive should provide the means of applying the Convention harmoniously.

38. Selected criteria were proposed for inviting countries to accede to the Convention. The following suggestions were made :

- (i) establishing the number of species needing protection in the candidate country;
- (ii) establishing protection requirements for migratory species in the countries concerned;
- (iii) studying the biological similarity of the habitats requiring protection.

39. Other criteria might also be defined and the conference requested the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention to study this problem in depth, together with all the difficulties raised by the possible extension of the Convention.

C. OPEN DISCUSSION BETWEEN HEADS OF DELEGATION

40. On a proposal by Mrs Smet the Conference restricted its open discussion to a single item: the draft Convention on damage resulting from activities dangerous to the environment (DIR/JUR (9) 2) prepared by the Committee of Experts on Compensation for Damage Caused to the Environment.

41. During the ensuing discussion, the opinion was expressed that the proposed instrument should not neglect the international aspects of the problem, bearing in mind past experience, such as Chernobyl.

42. In conclusion, the Conference recommended that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe should make every effort to ensure that the draft convention would be examined at one or more meetings attended by representatives of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation and the Steering Committee for the Conservation and Management of the Environment and Natural Habitats. The project might eventually be examined at a joint meeting of the Ministers of Justice and of the Environment.

43. This recommendation was justified for the following reasons:

- (i) the importance assigned by the Environment Ministers to this project, which concerns above all damage caused to the environment;
- (ii) the close relationships between prevention policy and civil liability;
- (iii) the need to find a definition for "damage caused to the environment" which was acceptable for all concerned, legal experts and ecologists alike.

**D. COLLOQUY BETWEEN HEADS OF DELEGATION AND THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND OF THE STANDING CONFERENCE
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE (CLRAE)**

44. As was customary at each ministerial conference, a colloquy was held between the Heads of Delegation and the representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, during which a number of questions were discussed which the Chair summed up as follows:

- (i) the role of the Council of Europe in environmental affairs:
 - liaison between the Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Communities;
 - advisability of consulting the Parliamentary Assembly, and more specifically its Sub-Committee on the Environment;
- (ii) soil protection: lack of awareness of the irreversible nature of soil impairment;
 - measures to be taken in order to prevent such damage;
 - the cost of measures to "clean up" soil;
- (iii) extension of the Bern Convention:
 - urgency of applying Article 4 on the protection of habitats;
 - all conventions are satisfactory if properly applied: did sanctions exist for failure to apply the relevant provisions?
 - the need to define precise areas for Council of Europe action, particularly to prevent the Convention from becoming a dead letter;
- (iv) the Council of Europe's role in co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe:
 - who should be responsible for such co-operation and how should it be applied with respect to the environment?
 - the need for co-operation between parliamentarians in East and West.

45. At the close of the colloquy, Mrs SMET wondered whether it would not be more useful to organise the discussions between the Heads of Delegation and the representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and the CLRAE more rigorously. While fully realising that the discussions should remain as free and open as possible, she thought that they would be more fruitful if the questions to be raised were known in advance so that replies could be well prepared. This would not, of course, preclude the raising of additional questions.

III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

46. At the close of proceedings, the Ministers of the Environment adopted three resolutions:

Resolution No 1 on soil protection;

Resolution No 2 on the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats and the implications of its extension to East European and African countries;

Resolution No 3 on the 6th and 7th sessions of the European Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
After the adoption of this resolution the Chair, acting on a proposal by the Liechtenstein Minister, briefly stated the problems which might be discussed at the Liechtenstein Conference, as follows:

- landscape protection;
- the creation of compensatory zones as a means of maintaining and protecting species threatened with, or on the verge of extinction;
- the pursuit of activities on soil protection.

47. The text of the above resolutions will be found in Appendix 3.

IV. A P P E N D I C E S

APPENDIX I

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening speech by Madam Catherine LALUMIERE, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
2. Address by Madam Miet SMET, Secretary of State for the Environment of Belgium;
3. Election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman;
4. Adoption of the European Conservation Strategy (MEN 6 (90) 5);
5. Theme n° 1 : Protection of soil and follow-up to the feasibility study (MEN 6 (90) 2);
 - . Presented by Madam SMET
 - . Discussion
6. Theme n° 2 : The Bern Convention and the implications of its extension to East European and African countries (MEN 6 (90) 3);
 - . Presented by Madam LALUMIERE
 - . Discussion
7. Open discussion by the Heads of delegations;
8. Colloquy between the Heads of delegations and the Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe of the Council of Europe;
9. Adoption of the Conference resolutions and of the press communiqués.

APPENDIX 2

List of participants / Liste des participants

AUSTRIA/AUTRICHE :

Mr. Heinz SCHREIBER, Directeur Général, Ministère de l'Environnement,

Mr. Anton TÜRTSCHER, Ministre de l'Environnement de la province
du Vorarlberg,

Mr. Ernst ZANINI, expert du Gouvernement Provincial de Styrie pour
les affaires d'environnement,

Mme Elisabeth FREITAG, Ministère de l'Environnement.

BELGIUM/BELGIQUE :

Mme Miet SMET, Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Environnement et à l'Emancipation
sociale,

Mr. VAN CROMBRUGGHE, Représentant Permanent de la Belgique auprès du
Conseil de l'Europe,

Mr. Chris VANDEN BILCKE, Conseiller au Cabinet du Secrétaire d'Etat à
l'Environnement et à l'Emancipation sociale,

Mr. PLATTEAU, Représentant de la Région flamande,

Mr. CARTUYVELS, Représentant de la Région wallonne,

Mr. Jean-Christophe PRIGNON, Représentant de la Région bruxelloise.

CYPRUS/CHYPRE :

Mr. Andreas GAVRIELIDIS, Minister of Agriculture and National
Resources,

Mr. Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS, Ambassador of Cyprus,

Mr. A. PISSARIDES, Officer in Charge of Nature Conservation Services,

Mr. Dimos SPATHARIS, Commercial Advisor to the Cyprus Embassy.

DENMARK/DANEMARK :

Mrs. Karen WESTERBYE-JUHL, Director General, Ministry of the Environment,

Mr. Veit KOESTER, Head of Division, Ministry of the Environment,

Mrs. Loa BOGASON, Head of Section, Ministry of the Environment.

FINLAND/FINLANDE :

Mr. Kaj BÄRLUND, Minister of Environment,

Mr. Antti A. HAAPANEN, Assistant Director General Ministry of Environment,

Ms. Eija KIISKINEN, Secretary for International Affairs,

Ms. Aira KALELA,

Mr. Juha VIRTANEN, 2nd Secretary, Permanent Delegation of Finland to the EEC.

FRANCE :

Mr. Brice LALONDE, Ministre délégué auprès du Premier Ministre, chargé de l'Environnement et de la Prévention des Risques technologiques et naturels majeurs,

Mr. Pierre de BOISDEFFRE, Représentant Permanent de la France auprès du Conseil de l'Europe,

Mme Laurence AUER, Chargée de mission au Cabinet du Ministre chargé de l'Environnement,

Mr. Marcel JOUVE, Direction de la Protection de la Nature au Ministère de l'Environnement.

GERMANY/ALLEMAGNE :

Mr. Wolfgang GRÖBL, Secrétaire d'Etat parlementaire,

Mr. Karl-Günther KOLODZIEJCOK, Ministerialdirigent,

Dr. Hendrik VYGEN, Ministerialrat,

Mr. Reinhard SCHIER, Regierungsdirektor,

Dr. Volker KREGEL, Regierungsrat,

Mr. Axel ZEIDLER, Legationssekretär,

GREECE/GRECE :

Mr. Stefanos MANOS, Ministre de l'Environnement et des Travaux publics,

Mr. M. VASSILOPOULOS, Représentation Permanente auprès de la
Communauté Européenne

ICELAND/ISLANDE :

Mr. Julius SOLNES, Minister of the Environment,

Mr. Einar BENEDIKTSSON, Ambassador,

Mr. Pall LINDAL, Secretary General.

IRELAND/IRLANDE :

Mrs. Mary HARNEY, Minister of State for Environment,

Mr. Aidan KINCH, Private Secretary,

Mr. Declan BURNS, Principal Officer,

Mr. Tom WRIGHT, Senior Advisor,

Dr. COLLINS, Adviser,

Mrs. Mary MOYLAN, Permanent Delegation to the EEC.

ITALY/ITALIE :

Mr. Piero Mario ANGELINI, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat de l'Environnement,

Mr. Alessandro RUSSI, Chef de la Division Aires Protégées, Ministère
de l'Environnement,

Mr. Giuseppe CASSINI, Conseiller diplomatique du Ministre de
l'Environnement;

Mr. Antonello SENNI, Ministère de l'Environnement,

Mr. Giulio RONCHETTI, Professeur,

Mr. TAVERNITI, Responsable de presse au Ministère de l'Environnement.

LIECHTENSTEIN :

Mr. Herbert WILLE, Vice-Chef du Gouvernement, Ministre de l'Intérieur,
de la Justice, de la Culture, de la Jeunesse et du Sport, de
l'Environnement, de l'Agriculture et de la Sylviculture et la
Protection de la Nature,

Mr. Felix NÄSCHER, Président du Département des Forêts, de la Chasse
et de la Conservation de la Nature,

Mr. Julius OSPELT, Président du Département de l'Agriculture.

LUXEMBOURG :

Mr. Alex BODRY, Ministre de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement, de l'Energie et des Communications,

Mr. Charles ZIMMER, Conseiller de Direction première classe.

MALTA/MALTE :

Mr. Stanley ZAMMIT, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment,

Mr. F.X. XERRI, Head of Secretariat,

Mr. Joe SULTANA, Environment Officer,

Mr. Paul SALIBA, First Secretary, Embassy,

Miss Rozena GRIMA.

NETHERLANDS/PAYS-BAS :

Mr. J.P. VAN ZUTPHEN, Director General of Rural Areas and Quality Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,

Dr. J.B. PIETERS, Deputy Director General of Rural Areas and Quality Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,

Mr. F.H.J. VON DER ASSEN, Head of Bureau for International Affairs, Directorate for Nature Conservation, Environmental Protection and Wildlife Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,

Dr. J.H. DEWAIDE,

Dr. M.J. DRESDEN,

Mr. W.J. ELZINGA,

Mr. W.W. STURMS.

NORWAY/NORVEGE :

Mr. P.K. SKULBERG, Secretary of State for the Environment,

Mr. Jan D.G. ABRAHAMSEN, Director General, Nature Conservation Department, Ministry of the Environment,

Mrs. Gunn PAULSEN, Directorate of Nature Management.

PORTUGAL :

Mr. Macario CORREIA, Secrétaire d'Etat de l'Environnement et de la Defense du Consommateur,

Mr. Dr. José DE ALMEIDA FERNANDES, Président de l'Institut National d'Environnement,

Mr. José CORREIA DA CUNHA, Association des Télécentres du Portugal, Président du Groupe Coordination des actions pour le monde rural, Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources naturelles et de l'Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation,

Mrs. Maria Cristina C.A.R. FALCAO DE CAMPOS, Bureau des Relations Internationales, Ministère de l'Environnement.

SAN MARINO/SAINT-MARIN :

Mr. Nicola FILIPPI BALESTRA, Ambassadeur de la République de Saint Marin en Belgique.

SPAIN/ESPAGNE :

Mr. D. Domingo FERREIRO PICADO, Secrétaire Général à l'Environnement,

Mr. D. José Maria ROCHE MARQUEZ, Directeur Général de la Politique Environnementale,

Mr. Inigo ASCASIBAR ZUBIZARRETA, Expert technique, Ministère des travaux publics et d'Urbanisme.

SWEDEN/SUEDE :

Mrs. Birgitta DAHL, Minister of the Environment,

Mr. Rune FRISEN, Head of the Department of National Resources, National Environment Protection Board, Ministry of the Environment,

Mr. Rolf LINDELL, Assistant Under-Secretary, Ministry of the Environment,

Mr. Svante LUNDQUIST, Head of Section, Ministry of the Environment.

SWITZERLAND/SUISSE :

Mr. Bruno BÖHLEN, Directeur de l'Office fédéral de l'environnement, des forêts et du paysage,

Mr. Aldo ANTONIETTI, Chef de la Division de la Protection de la Nature et du Paysage, Office fédéral de l'environnement, des forêts et du paysage,

Mr. Hans-Jörg LEHMANN, Office fédéral de l'Agriculture,

Mr. Rudolf HÄBERILI, Programme national des sols,

Mrs. Roselyne CRAUSAZ, Conseillère d'Etat du Canton de Fribourg, Représentante de la Conférence suisse des directeurs des travaux publics, de l'aménagement du territoire et de la protection de l'environnement.

TURKEY/TURQUIE :

Mr. M. Vehbi DINCERLER, Minister of State for Environment,

Mr. Can ALTAN, Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Council of Europe,

Mr. Tansu GURPINAR, Head of International Affairs Department, Under-secretariat for Environment, Prime Minister's Office,

Mr. Tuncay SOYSAL, Head of Section, State Hydraulic Works,

Mr. Altay CENGIZER, First Secretary, Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EEC

Mme Sabiha DINCERLER.

UNITED KINGDOM/ROYAUME-UNI :

Mr. Robert GREEN, Director of Rural Affairs, Department of Environment,

Mr. Martin BRASHER, Head of International Wildlife Branch, Department of the Environment,

Mr. John ROBBINS, Higher Executive Officer, Wildlife Division, Department of the Environment,

Mr. Graham LEWIS, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES /
COMMISSION DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES

Mr. Carlo RIPA DI MEANA, Membre de la Commission chargé de l'Environnement, de la Sécurité nucléaire et de la Protection civile,

Mr. Laurens Jan BRINKHORST, Directeur Général de l'Environnement, de la Sécurité Nucléaire et de la Protection civile,

Mr. Clauss STUFFMANN, Chef d'Unité, Direction Générale de l'Environnement, de la Sécurité Nucléaire et de la Protection civile,

Mr. Anastasios NYCHAS, Chef de Secteur, Direction Générale de l'Environnement, de la Sécurité Nucléaire et de la Protection civile,

Mr. Richard GEISER, Administrateur Principal, Direction Générale de l'Environnement, de la Sécurité Nucléaire et de la Protection civile,

Mme Marie-Odile DEN HARTOG, Assistante Principale, Direction Générale des Relations Extérieures,

Mr. Bertrand DELPEUCH.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, COUNCIL OF EUROPE /
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE, COUNSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Sub-Committee on Environment / Sous-commission de l'Environnement

Mr. Hugo ADRIAENSSENS	Belgium / Belgique
Mme Lieselott BLUNCK	Germany / Allemagne
Mr. Camille DIMMER	Luxembourg
Mr. Louis JUNG	France
Lord NEWALL	Great Britain / Royaume-Uni
Mr. Victor RUFFY	Switzerland / Suisse

STANDING CONFERENCE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE /
CONFERENCE PERMANENTE DES POUVOIRS LOCAUX ET REGIONAUX DE L'EUROPE

Mr. Alexander TCHERNOFF, Chairman of the Committee on the Natural
and Built Environment, Netherlands / Pays-Bas,
Mr. Ulrich MENTZ, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Natural and
Built Environment, Germany / Allemagne.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR REGIONAL PLANNING /
CONFERENCE EUROPEENNE DES MINISTRES RESPONSABLE DE L'AMENAGEMENT DU
TERRITOIRE

Apologised for absence / excusé

OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT / PARLEMENT EUROPEEN

NON-MEMBER STATES / ETATS NON-MEMBRES

BURKINA FASO

Mr. Maurice Dieudonné BONANET, Ministre de l'Environnement,
Mr. Alain ILBOUDO, Chargé d'Affaires, Ambassade du Burkina Faso
auprès du Royaume de Belgique.

CANADA

CZECH AND SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC /
REPUBLIQUE FEDERATIVE TCHEQUE ET SLOVAQUE

Mr. Vaclav KODIS, Conseiller à la Mission de la République Fédérative
Tchèque et Slovaque auprès de la Communauté Européenne

HOLY SEE / ST. SIEGE

Mgr. Jorge Maria MEJIA, Vice-président du Conseil Pontifical
"Justice et Paix",

Rév. Michel SCHOOYANS, Professeur à l'Université catholique de
Louvain,

Mr. Jean J. MENNIG, Professeur à l'Université catholique de
Louvain.

HUNGARY / HONGRIE

Mr. S.K. KERESZTES, Minister,

Mr. Istvan FESÜS,

Dr. Janos ZAKONYI.

MOROCCO / MAROC

Mr. Jaafar ALJ HAKIM, Premier Conseiller à l'Ambassade Royale du Maroc,

Mr. Fakhr Eddine ESSAIDI, Premier Secrétaire, Ambassade royale du
Maroc.

POLAND / POLOGNE

Mr. Bronislaw KAMINSKI, Ministre de l'Environnement,

Mr. Krysztof SOBKOW, Chef de Cabinet,

Mr. Jozef BUSZMAN, Président de la Région de Silésie,

Mr. Stanislas SITNICKI, Directeur, Bureau Programme et Stratégie,

Mr. Tadeusz OLEHOWSKI, Ambassadeur.

SENEGAL

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

Mr. Ahmed FRIAA, Ministre de l'Equipement et de l'Habitat,

Mr. Abdelkader BAOUENDI, Président Directeur Général de l'Agence
nationale de la Protection de l'Environnement,

Mr. Mehdi MLIKA, Président Directeur Général de l'Office national
de l'Assainissement,

Mlle ARIBI, Ambassade de Tunisie à Bruxelles.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / ETATS UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Apologised for absence / excusé

USSR / URSS

Mr. Victor F. KOSTIN, Deputy Minister, Comité d'Etat de l'URSS pour la protection de la nature,

Mr. Sergueï TICHONOV, Directeur Adjoint, Département Coopération Internationale, Comité d'Etat de l'URSS pour la protection de la nature.

YUGOSLAVIA / YUGOSLAVIE

Mr. Bozo MARENDIC, Secrétaire fédéral au Développement,

Mr. Predrag PASIC, Directeur de cabinet du Secrétaire fédéral au Développement.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS / ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS/
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET
L'AGRICULTURE

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ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT/
ORGANISATION DE COOPERATION ET DE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUES

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME / PROGRAMME DES NATIONS
UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Mr. Martin UPPENBRINK, Director, Regional Office for Europe.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION/
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA
CULTURE

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UNITED NATIONS - ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE/
NATIONS UNIES - COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE POUR L'EUROPE

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION / ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE

Dr. D.T. MAGE, Spécialiste scientifique, Prévention de la Pollution de l'Environnement.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS / ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES

EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE / CONFEDERATION EUROPEENNE DE L'AGRICULTURE

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GAME AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION/
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DE LA CHASSE ET DE LA CONSERVATION DU GIBIER

THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION / L'ALLIANCE MONDIALE POUR LA NATURE

Dr. Wolfgang BURHENNE, Chairman of the Commission on Environmental Policy, Law and Administration.

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU / BUREAU EUROPEEN DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Mr. Raymond Van ERMEN, Secretary General / Secrétaire Général

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION/
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR LA PROTECTION DES OISEAUX

Mr. Lawrence ROSE, Senior International Officer.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS/
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES UNIONS SCIENTIFIQUES

apologised for absence / excusé

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES/
UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE ET DE SES
RESSOURCES

INTERNATIONAL WILDFOWL RESEARCH BUREAU/
BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHES SUR LES OISEAUX D'EAU

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SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE/
SECRETARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Mme Catherine LALUMIERE, Secretary General/Secrétaire Général,

Private Office/Cabinet

M. Ulrich BOHNER, Administrator principal/ Administrateur principal,

Directorate of Environment and Local Authorities/
Direction de l'Environnement et des Pouvoirs Locaux

M. Ferdinando ALBANESE, Director / Directeur,

M. Jean-Pierre RIBAUT, Head of Environment Protection and Management
Division/ Chef de la Division de la Protection et de la Gestion de
l'Environnement,

M. Thomas OUCHTERLONY, Chef du Bureau de Liaison du Conseil de
l'Europe auprès des Communautés Européennes,

M. Hector HACOURT, Principal Administrator / Administrateur principal,

M. Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Administrator / Administrateur,

Mme Muriel DABIRI, Secretary / Secrétaire,

Mme Maureen GEORGES-HIGGS, Secretary / Secrétaire,

Office of the Clerk of the Parliamentary Assembly /
Greffe de l'Assemblée Parlementaire

Mr. Aloïs LARCHER,

Directorate of Information/ Direction de la Communication

Ms. Christiane GRANEL,

Ms. Christine WILKOMM,

Interpretation Service/ Service de l'Interprétation

M. Robert van MICHEL, Head of team/Chef d'équipe.

APPENDIX 3

RESOLUTION N° 1

on soil protection

The Ministers taking part in the Sixth European Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

Having examined the feasibility study on possible national and/or European actions in the field of soil protection;

Recalling Resolution N° 1 on the protection and management of the national heritage in rural areas adopted at their fifth session in 1987 in Lisbon, which recommended, inter alia, to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to study the possibility of drawing up an appropriate draft Convention on soil protection;

Taking into account the Recommendation concerning the European Conservation Strategy adopted at the present session, which contains, in the section devoted to sectorial aspects, a whole chapter on qualitative soil protection and on land use;

Considering the importance of the functions of the soil, not only from the ecological point of view (biomass production, filtering, buffering and transforming action; biological habitat and genetic reservoir) but also from the human point of view (physical medium, source of raw materials, cultural heritage);

Considering the threats on soil, particularly those of human origin but also those of natural origin, which can cause serious damage, some of which is irreversible;

Convinced that soil is a natural non-renewable resource of vital importance for mankind, both present and future generations;

Considering the advisability of undertaking, both at national and international level, appropriate action for soil protection, understood in a broad sense, covering not only specific policies for soil conservation but also policies to encourage a rational use of land, as well as to control potentially harmful activities;

Convinced that such protection, a fundamental aspect of environmental conservation, should, because of the multiple causes of soil deterioration and the interaction between diffuse and specific influences, have a comprehensive character;

1. RECOGNISE the importance of a comprehensive and integrated policy of soil protection, both at national and international level, which would go beyond the efforts made so far;
2. RECOMMEND the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to undertake a step by step action which, starting with a Recommendation, will set up a Work Programme implying concrete initiatives for soil protection and would end up, as appropriate in the light of experience, with the elaboration of a framework-convention in 1993 and of possible additional protocols ensuring legal certainty for the future.

RESOLUTION N° 2

on the Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats and its implications following its extension to the countries of Eastern Europe and Africa

The Ministers taking part in the Sixth European Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

Having examined the report presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the Bern Convention and its implications following its extension to the countries of Eastern Europe and Africa;

Recalling the three aims of the Bern Convention, ie. to ensure the conservation of wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, to encourage co-operation between the States and to grant particular protection to endangered and vulnerable species, including migratory species;

Considering that the Bern Convention should continue to have as objective the conservation of the species of flora and fauna of Europe;

Considering that it would be useful to extend progressively the Convention to the whole of Europe;

REQUEST the Bern Standing Committee to study in a detailed way, on the basis of the report submitted to the Conference and the debate among the delegations, the problems raised by the possible extension of the Convention, especially the scope of Article 14, the implications of ongoing work on other agreements, the cost of habitat protection;

REQUEST also the Standing Committee to carry out the study mentioned in the previous paragraph in consultation with the responsible bodies of other conventions and any interested states;

RECOMMEND the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to allocate adequate means for the implementation of the Bern Convention;

INVITE all the Contracting Parties to finance special activities carried out in the framework of the Convention, by voluntary contributions in addition to the budget of the Council of Europe, and use, whenever possible, other available means of financing.

RESOLUTION N° 3

**on the holding of the sixth and seventh sessions of the
European Ministerial Conference on the Environment**

The Ministers taking part in the Sixth European Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

Express their warmest gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium, particularly to the Secretary of State for Environment, for the perfect arrangements made for the sixth Conference and for its generous hospitality;

Mindful of the necessity of maintaining regular personal contact between the Ministers responsible for environmental problems;

Accept with gratitude the invitation of the Principality of Liechtenstein to hold the seventh Conference in its country.