Resolution on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 3 to be held in Kyoto from 1 to 10 December 1997

1997/2634(RSP) - 09/12/1996

The debate showed that there was cause for continuing to work on certain issues in order to narrow the gap between the different positions. Consequently, it had not been possible to adopt the conclusions that had been drawn up by the presidency. This matter was to be included on the agenda for the next sitting of the Environment Council that was scheduled for March 1997. The starting point for the Council's discussions was the ministerial declaration that had been adopted at the second sitting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), which was held in July 1996. This declaration called for more rapid progress on the negotiations for a protocol to the FCCC, which was to set out the relevant policies and measures, as well as the mandatory targets for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and for achieving significant reductions in global emission levels by certain specified dates. The questions that had been at the centre of the discussions were the emission reduction targets, the 'distribution of the burden' between the Member States and the form in which the targets should be expressed (as absolute values or otherwise). These issues were closely interlinked and were further complicated by the fact that the situation in respect of emissions output (previous, current and anticipated levels) varied considerably from one Member State to the next.