Atmospheric pollution, CO_2 and greenhouse gas emissions: monitoring mechanism (amend. Decision 93/389/EEC)

1996/0192(SYN) - 29/01/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee fully endorses this proposal and the deadlines in respect of monitoring which it contains. The Committee would, however, wish to make a number of comments: - the methodology to be used to calculate anthropogenic greenhouse-gas emissions and the cushioning effect of using sinks needs to be based on the methodology being developed by the international group of experts on climate change (IPCC). However, the very lack of more detailed information in this connection raises doubts concerning its availability and adoption by the Member States by a date which is in keeping with the deadlines set out in the proposed decision; - there is a need for a single, clearly applicable methodology designed for the precise evaluation of current emissions at national level and by sources, and of their impact over the next five, ten and twenty years in line with their Global Warming Potential (GWP), together with the effect of the corrective measures adopted in each Member State. - reference is made on several occasions in the proposal to ozone precursors as having a detrimental effect on health. However, it should be indicated that this is "tropospheric ozone" so that the public can distinguish it from "stratospheric ozone", which is the one to protect.