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

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This, the second report prepared by the Commission and forwarded to the European Parliament and the Council for consideration, analyses and disseminates information relating to greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union, in line with Council Decision 93/389/EEC. The purpose of Decision 93/389/EEC and subsequent revisions is to offer uniform figures for the monitoring of Community greenhouse gas emissions. The main findings of the Report are: - Greenhouse gas emissions (excluding land use change and forestry) in the EU have decreased in 1999 by 4% when compared to 1990 levels. This is thanks in large part due to increased reductions made in the UK and Germany. As a result the EU, as a whole, is in line with its targets path for both 2000 and 2008-12. Yet, in spite of British and German achievements, many other countries have considerably exceeded their target reductions. The Commission urges them not to become complacent and to continue striving for further reductions in the greenhouse gas emissions in line with their international commitments. - The findings of the Report would suggest that, based on current trends, emissions by 2010 will stabilise at 1990 levels. Nevertheless the Kyoto target of -8% still needs to be achieved and will thus require immediate and significant effort from most Member States if such goals are to be reached. - Emissions from the transport sector continue to cause concern with heavy traffic and congestion on the EU's major arteries continuing to grow. The Report estimates that by 2010 the transport sector will rise by more than 30%. The Report notes that a redress in this imbalance is urgently needed in order to maintain the momentum for reductions in greenhouse gases. - In terms or reporting methods from Member States the Report notes that monitoring and transmission of information has improved compared to the first progress report, even though reporting on projected progress has not significantly improved. The authors thus conclude that all projects must be treated with considerable caution. - Lastly, the Commission is proposing a future Review of the Monitoring Mechanism under Council Decision 93/389/EEC (as amended in 1999) in order to bring EU legislation in line with provisions agreed at Kyoto and the forthcoming EU Emissions Trading scheme.