Basic information

1997/2634(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 3 to be held in Kyoto from 1 to 10 December 1997 **Subject** 3.70.03 Climate policy, climate change, ozone layer 3.70.18 International and regional environment protection measures and agreements 6.40.13 Relations with/in the context of international organisations: UN, OSCE, OECD, Council of Europe, EBRD	

Key players

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Environment	2017	1997-06-19
Environment	1978	1996-12-09
Environment	2033	1997-10-16
Environment	2062	1997-12-16
Environment	1990	1997-03-03
Environment	2076	1998-03-23

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/12/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
03/03/1997	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
19/06/1997	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
16/10/1997	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
19/11/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
08/12/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		
23/03/1998	Debate in Council		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2634(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway				
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
For information		SEC(1996)2002	08/11/1996	
For information		COM(1997)0481	01/10/1997	Summary
Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1192/1997	29/10/1997	Summary

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1997/2634(RSP) - 16/10/1997

In view of the Kyoto negotiations on a protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Council adopted conclusions in which it: - confirmed the targets which would be defended by the EU (reduction by at least 7.5% in emission levels of greenhouse gases in 2005 and by 15% in 2010); - reaffirmed its commitment to the adoption at Kyoto of an effective protocol containing binding targets, and other policies and measures, some of which should be legally binding; - pointed out that the burden sharing between EU Member States should be further clarified; - regretted the absence of concrete negotiating proposals from important industrialised countries, or their inadequacy.

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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.

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1997/2634(RSP) - 29/10/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Commission communication responds to the mandate given by the Council of Ministers in March and June 1997. The effort to substantiate the EU's negotiating position by demonstrating the feasibility of ecologically compatible development is to be welcomed. The communication has already achieved one positive result: other key players, such as the United States and Japan, have been obliged to adopt an official position on the issue, thus paving the way for more specific and binding discussions in Kyoto. At the same time, the Committee notes that the failure to envisage any unilateral

commitment on the part of the EU introduces an element of political weakness which only the Council meeting of 16 October could have remedied. The Council confirmed its desire to see "an effective protocol that provides legally binding objectives" adopted at Kyoto, and regretted the "absence or inadequacy of concrete negotiation offers from the major industrialized countries", but was very vague about the possibility of formulating and implementing the Community policies and measures needed to achieve such objectives. The Committee feels that the platform sketched out by the Commission can help to make the Kyoto conference a success, and to counter the scaled-down decisions for which support seems to be emerging in the United States and Japan. Only by assuming a practical, coherent commitment can the developed countries open the way to greater involvement of the developing countries, whose energy consumption is bound to increase. The United States wishes to make the Kyoto negotiations conditional on agreements on emission trading and joint implementation between the developed and developing countries; but these steps represent a further stage which can only be reached if the developed countries work in concert to reduce their emissions.

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1997/2634(RSP) - 01/10/1997 - For information

OBJECTIVE: to establish a Community approach to the Kyoto Conference on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2000. SUBSTANCE: this Communication, on the subject of climate change, seeks to place the EU negotiating position in an overall context and is designed to show that it is both technically feasible and economically manageable to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 7.5% by 2005 and 15% by 2010 despite the upward trend in these emissions. The Communication, which constitutes a signal to the United States and Japan, emphasizes the following points: - the potential future damage and cost resulting from climate change make it imperative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions urgently (the direct cost to the EU between now and 2010 will be between ECU 15 and 35 billion); - industrialized countries must continue to take the lead; - emission reduction targets are technically feasible and economically manageable within the EU only if all industrialized countries make comparable efforts; - many of the measures needed for a cost-effective strategy are equally applicable to other industrialized countries; - the choice of the right mixture of instruments is essential for a cost-effective climate strategy; - given the political challenge and the need for action, the involvement of all parts of society and all sectors (transport, industry, electricity) will be needed; - the Commission will develop a more detailed climate change strategy on the basis of the commitments entered into in Kyoto. It should be remembered that the EU's negotiating position agreed by the Environment Council in March and June 1997 refers to a basket of three greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O).