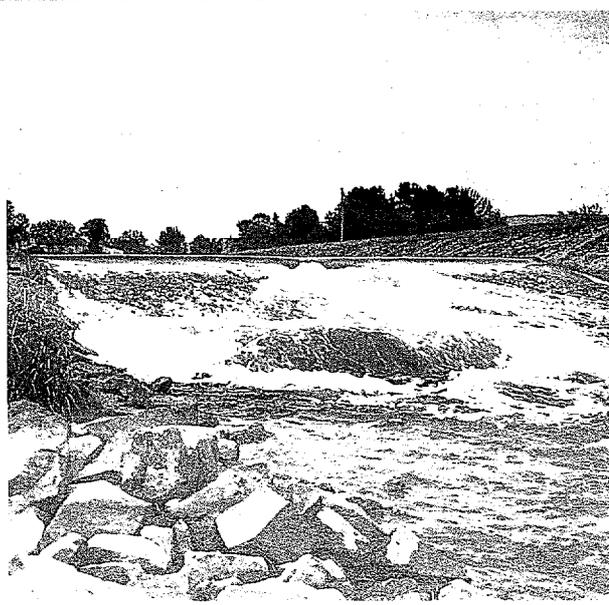


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for water research



**Summary report on
environmental developments - 12
October to December 1992**

January 1993

FWRS

RESEARCH REPORT

WRC

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SUMMARY REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL
DEVELOPMENTS - 12
OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1992

FR 0347

JANUARY 1993

**SUMMARY REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS - 12
OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1992**

Report No: FR 0347

January 1993

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SUMMARY

I BENEFITS

The customer will benefit from early warning of developments in Europe relating to environmental legislation and pollution control practice.

Review of these developments helps assessment of their consequences for the UK Water Industry. This will assist the customer to provide timely and informed responses to any proposals and to prepare for any likely changes in existing practice.

II OBJECTIVES

To review recent developments in Europe relating to environmental legislation and pollution control practice.

III REASONS

Developments in other Member States often influence the drafting of proposals for legislation by the European Commission. Early warning of such measures assists in assessing their likely consequences and provides information which can be used in response to proposals. This series of reports prepared every three months seeks to inform the Water Industry and Regulatory Authorities about significant developments.

IV CONCLUSIONS

This report summarises environmental developments over the period October to December 1992. During this period no items of EC legislation of particular interest to the UK Water Industry and Regulatory Authorities were adopted. However, a few important items of legislation were announced or developed and these include a proposal for a Council Decision on the creation of a European inland waterway network, a proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a cohesion Fund, a proposal for a Council Directive co-ordinating procedures for the award of public supply contracts and a proposal for a Council Directive on the ecological quality of surface waters. In addition, the Commission has just circulated its Working Paper on the Fourth Framework Programme for research and technological development (1994 - 1998) and published, for consultation, draft no 4 of the European Waste Catalogue which is based on Annexes I, II and III of the Hazardous Waste Directive.

Concerning drinking water matters, the final task group meeting for the revision of the WHO guidelines for Drinking Water Quality was held in Geneva in September. The group finalised the guideline values as well as volume 1 of the guidelines. It is expected that the guidelines will be published in three volumes in the late spring of 1993. As usual, the latest developments by CEN Committees are reported, but since during this quarter neither EUREAU nor the UK Cryptosporidium Research Steering Committee have announced any issues of particular note, no reports on these Committees are included.

Also covered is the New Road and Street Works Act 1991 due to come into effect in 1993. This may have significant effect on the Water plcs in relation to material excavated

during road works. Other topics include the Ministerial Meeting of the Oslo and Paris Commissions which was held in Paris in September, the UK Environmental Law Association 1992 Garner Lecture, German technical instructions on urban wastes and green taxes proposed in Belgium. A review of the NRA's policy document on groundwater protection, published in December, is also included because although there are few changes to the original draft (summarised in FR 0280; Summary Report - 9) some parts of the policy are more stringent.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is the latest (the twelfth) in a series of quarterly reports prepared by the Environmental Standards Division of WRc and summaries recent developments in European environmental legislation and control practices over the period October to December 1992. Such developments can greatly influence the drafting of proposals for legislation by the European Commission. Early warning of such measures can assist the UK Water Industry and Regulatory Authorities in assessing their likely consequences and provides information which can be used in response to the proposals.

For brevity, each of the summaries on items of interest included in this report has been restricted in length to one or two pages. However, further details on any of these items can be obtained from the authors.

Also given in the report is a listing of the most relevant adopted (please note: none during this period) and proposed EC Directives, Decisions and Regulations published in the Official Journal during the period together with comments on those likely to have the greatest impact on the UK Water Industry and Regulatory Authorities.

2. EC LEGISLATION

During the period under review (and specifically from 8 September 1992 to 21 December 1992) no Directives, Regulations and Resolutions of particular importance to the UK Water Industry and Regulatory Authorities have been introduced. There are a number of possible explanations for this lack of new legislation but probably the following are the most significant

1. European Commission staff still on annual leave at the beginning of the quarter.
2. The resignation of the Commissioner - Mr Ripa Di Meana.
3. The continuing debate on the interpretation of subsidiarity for environmental legislation.
4. The hiatus concerning the foundation of the proposed European Environmental Agency.

Furthermore the Commission has announced (or developed) over this period only a few items of legislation which, if adopted, would have great significance for the UK Water Industry and Regulatory Authorities. The most important of these are:

1. Proposal for a Council Decision on the creation of a European inland, waterway network (COM(92)231 final) (see Section 3).
2. Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a Cohesion Fund (COM(92)339 final) (see Section 4).
3. Proposal for a Council Directive co-ordinating procedures for the award of public supply contracts (COM(92)346 final - SYN442) (see Section 5)
4. Proposal for a Council Directive (EEC) on the ecological quality of surface waters (see Section 6).

Details of the adopted and proposed Directives, Decisions and Regulations announced during the period under view are given in Tables 2.1 and 2.2, respectively. Also listed are relevant European Parliament written questions and answers to the Commission which can give some insight into the thinking of the Commission.

As referred to above where an item is of particular importance further details are given in this report. (Note: The relevant Section number is shown in the listing against the individual item).

Table 2.1 Directives, Decisions and Regulations adopted during the period 8 September to 19 December 1992 which will have particular relevance to UK Water Industry and Regulatory Authorities (Official Journal L259-L369)

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
NONE		

Table 2.2 Proposed Directives, Decisions, Regulations and European Parliament written question and answers to European Commission during the period 8 September to 21 December 1992 which have particular relevance to UK Water Industry and Regulatory Authorities (Official Journal C228-334)

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
C 230	92/C 230/15	VALUE II - CENTRALIZED ACTION Announcement of opportunities to promote the results of Community RTD in the framework of the Council Decision 92/272/EEC of 29.4.1992 on the dissemination and exploitation of knowledge resulting from the specific programmes of research and technological development of the Community.
C 235		EP WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS
	92/C 235/09	Rules on the quality of beaches in the European Community.
	92/C 235/10	The EC and wetland wise use.
	92/C 235/26	Coastal pollution and coastal erosion in Ireland.
	92/C 235/60	Cross-border environmental impact assessments in the EEC.
	92/C 235/64	Environment-friendly packaging.
	92/C 235/79	Accident at the Drapetsona fertilizer factory.
	92/C 235/90	Application of the directive on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects in the environment in relation to the district plan for Thessaloniki.
	92/C 235/126	The need for a drastic reduction in the use of insecticides.
C 236	92/C 236/05	Proposal for a Council Decision on the creation of a European inland waterway network.
C 245	92/C 245/01	COURT OF AUDITORS - SPECIAL REPORT NO 3/92 concerning the environment together with the Commission's Replies.

Table 2.2 continued

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
C 247		EP WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS
	92/C 247/11	Acid deposits caused by forests.
	92/C 247/12	Pollution caused by State-owned electricity power plants in Italy.
	92/C 247/20	Implementation of environment impact assessment provisions of the Fourth Convention of Lome.
	92/C 247/22	Siting of a toxic waste processing plant at Elaionas.
	92/C 247/25	Site of a new bridge over the river Tagus in Lisbon.
	92/C 247/37	Environment: plastic beaker versus china cup.
	92/C 247/43	Diversion of the river Acheloos.
	92/C 247/46	Recycling.
	92/C 247/55	Sources of drinking water in Greece.
	92/C 247/57	Substances in rubble tips.
	92/C 247/67	Water supply for Attica from the province of Boeotia.
	92/C 247/73	Environmental Education.
	92/C 247/79	Civil liability in respect of the environment.
	92/C 247/80	European Environment Agency.
C 248		PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
		establishing a Cohesion Fund. (The Fund may be used to support environmental projects)

Table 2.2 continued

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
C 262	92/C 262/01	COMMISSION COMMUNICATION on the comparability of vocational training qualifications between the Member States of the European Community established in implementing Council Decision 85/368/EEC of 16 July 1985 - CHEMICAL INDUSTRY SECTOR.
C 263	92/C 263/01	COMMISSION - PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE on packaging and packaging waste.
C 268	92/C 268/11	COMMISSION NOTICE - BRITE/EURAM II Second call for proposals for the specific programme of research and technology development in the field of Industrial and Materials Technologies (Areas 1 & 2).
C 269		EP WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS
	92/C 269/02	Monitoring of discharges into the Rhine by the Stracel Company.
	92/C 269/09	Blocked R & D programmes.
	92/C 269/14	Measures to combat dishonesty in respect of scientific works.
	92/C 269/20	Chemical pollution of textiles which may cause genetic changes.
	92/C 269/21	Order on the disposal of waste from packaging ('Toepfer Act') issued by the German Government on 12 June 1991 (FRG Official Gazette No 36 of 20 June 1991).
	92/C 269/35	Ozone-depleting chemicals.
	92/C 269/43	Problems of agriculture in wetland areas.

Table 2.2 continued

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
	92/C 269/59	Nickel and its compounds.
	92/C 269/78	Packaging law.
	92/C 269/84	Camerano Casasco waste tip in the Noci valley (province of Asti).
	92/C 269/87	Marine pollution off Elefsina, Agii Theodori and in the Thermaikos Gulf.
C 274	92/C 274/06	Yachts and pleasure boats and Directive 76/160/EEC.
	92/C 274/10	Community blue flags.
	92/C 274/19	Agricultural trade negotiations and the environment.
	92/C 274/41	Failure of the Spanish Government to implement Council Directive 80/68/EEC. (Protection of groundwater against pollution by dangerous substances.)
	92/C 274/74	Protection of Mediterranean fauna and flora.
	92/C 274/75	Urgent action to bring the use of the island Makronisos into line with its designation as an historic site.
	92/C 274/76	Diversion of the river Evinos.
	92/C 274/86	Contamination of Belgian milk by organochlorines.
	92/C 274/93	Duty of Member State governments or local authorities to implement the EIA Directive.
	92/C 274/94	Cancer link with insulation fibre.
	92/C 274/95	Danger of nuclear disasters in Bulgaria.
	92/C 274/101	Independent advice on the Joint Research Centre.
	92/C 274/102	Beneficiaries of the Erasmus programme.

Table 2.2 continued

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
	92/C 274/104	River Acheloos (Greece) and Mesolonghi wetlands.
	92/C 274/108	The aquatic environment of Lake Kastoria.
	92/C 274/109	Dounreay.
	92/C 274/124	Health and safety in the European Community.
	92/C 274/128	Construction of a dam in the Andevalo (Huelva), Andalusia.
	92/C 277/01	COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE coordinating procedures for the award of public supply contracts.
C 281		WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS
	92/C 281/03	Need for a serious assessment of the presence of dioxin in the environment and the food chain.
	92/C 281/14	Rubbish dumps in nature reserves.
	92/C 281/25	Compliance by the region of Campania (Italy) with European Community legislation on waste.
	92/C 281/40	Pesticide exports.
	92/C 281/90	Directive on the limitations of emissions of certain pollutants from large combustion plants in Portugal and Spain.
C 285		EP WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS
	92/C 285/19	Wetland habitat at Vonitsa.
	92/C 285/20	Gulf of Maliakos wetland.
	92/C 285/21	Radioactive pollution of the Aguedo river by the Enusa (with ERDF financing).

Table 2.2 continued

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
	92/C 285/23	Protection of the wildlife habitat at Alyki on the Island of Kos.
	92/C 285/25	The wetlands of the River Kalamas.
	92/C 285/26	Protection of the Aposelemis wetlands in Crete.
	92/C 285/41	Protection of ecosystems from the natural gas pipeline.
C 287		ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
	92/C 287/01	Opinion on the Proposal for a Council Decision approving certain admendments to the agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances, as signed in Bonn on 13 September 1983.
	92/C 287/09	Opinion on the proposal for a Resolution of the Council of the European Communities on a Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development.
	92/C 287/11	Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision concerning the approval of the additional Protocol to the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe.
C 289		EP WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS
	92/C 289/07	Pesticide MRLs - monitoring by Member States.
	92/C 289/10	Protection of the Istiea wetlands.
	92/C 289/12	Environmental impact assessment of the work to extend Malpensa airport.
	92/C 289/13	Programme for Western European Swamps.

Table 2.2 continued

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
	92/C 289/22	Examination of animals and fresh meat for the presence of residues.
	92/C 289/24	Irrigation works on the River Pinios (Peloponnese).
	92/C 289/25	Dolphin deaths caused by industrial waste in the sea.
	92/C 289/36	Threat of a second hole in the ozone layer over Europe.
	92/C 289/40	Compliance with measures to protect the Caretta-Caretta turtle.
	92/C 289/49	The environment of Stratoni in Chalkidiki.
	92/C 289/75	Verification of environmental impact assessments required by law.
	92/C 289/85	Invasion of the Mediterranean by toxic seaweed.
	92/C 289/92	Miramundo waste plant (Cadiz).
	92/C 289/104	Council Directive on the provision of information to the general public about health and protective measures to be applied and steps to be taken in the event of a radiological emergency.
	92/C 289/109	Installation of a toxic waste treatment plant at Rekkem (Belgium).
	92/C 289/112	Agreement on the use of environmental data.
	92/C 289/114	Analysis techniques for hazardous waste.
	92/C 289/125	Information on the disposal of used oil.

Table 2.2 continued

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
C 300	92/C 300/26	LIFE: DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Communication from the Commission on financial support for demonstration projects and technical assistance schemes for protection of the environment. Invitation to submit proposals.
C 309		EP WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS
	92/C 309/14	Protection of the ancient site of Pyrra on Lesbos.
	92/C 309/26	Establishment of a power station at Puertollano (Ciudad Real, Spain)
	92/C 309/45	The environment in Aridaia.
	92/C 309/52	The environment at Vathi Avlidas.
	92/C 309/65	The construction of the Severn Barrage Project.
	92/C 309/66	Genetically manipulated bacteria.
	92/C 309/70	The dangers of the additive MMT, produced by the Ethyl Corporation for vehicle fuels.
	92/C 309/82	Water pollution in the prefecture of Ioannina.
	92/C 309/83	Saving Lake Vegoritida.
	92/C 309/84	The threat of ecological disaster in the Mediterranean due to poisonous aquatic plants.
	92/C 309/88	Abstraction of groundwater by farmers for irrigation purposes.

Table 2.2 continued

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
C 311	92/C 311/01	COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION adopting the second phase of the Trans-European Cooperation Scheme for Higher Education (Tempus II) (1994-1998) (promotes the quality and the support of higher education in the countries of Central & Eastern Europe and interaction with partners in the European Community).
C 313	92/C 313/02	ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the Community, of the Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context.
	92/C 313/05	Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles.
	92/C 313/17	Opinion on the Green Paper on the Impact of Transport on the Environment: A Community strategy for 'sustainable mobility'.
C 314	92/C 314/06	MAST - CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST to organise advanced study courses in the field of marine science and technology in 1994.
C 317		EP WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS
	92/C 317/02	Quality of water in the municipality of Tudela (Navarra - Spain).
	92/C 317/03	Water quality in Andalucia.
	92/C 317/26	Waste disposal site on the Greek island of Zakynthos.

Table 2.2 continued

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
	92/C 317/28	Council Directive of 7 June 1990 on the freedom of access to information on the environment - terminology.
	92/C 317/31	Sewage in Malaga.
	92/C 317/47	Wetlands in the Community.
	92/C 317/52	Protection of Lake Trichonida.
	92/C 317/55	Environmental information.
	92/C 317/63	The Zliros gorges.
	92/C 317/64	Toxic waste incineration plant in Almaden (Spain).
	92/C 317/75	Environmental consequences of the extension of a Greek Electricity Board plant.
	92/C 317/77	Rubbish tip in the Mincio nature part (Lombardy - Italy).
	92/C 317/81	Infringement by Italy of Directive 76/464/EEC and the amendments thereto and of related Directives on the discharge of dangerous substances into water.
	92/C 317/114	Protection of the Saladares de Agua Amarga salt marshes (Alicante - Spain).
	92/C 317/132	Danger to the ecological balance of the Mediterranean resulting from the proliferation of tropical algae.
	92/C 317/136	Non-compliance with environmental Directives.
C 324	92/C 324/13	Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 91/67/EEC concerning the animal health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products.

Table 2.2 continued

Official Journal Reference	Proposal Number	Title
C 326	92/C 326/01	RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR HEALTH OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL OF 13 NOVEMBER 1992 on the monitoring and surveillance of communicable diseases.
C 328	92/C 328/09	AMENDED PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION adopting a four-year programme (1993 to 1996) to develop regular official statistics of the environment.
C 331	92/C 331/03	COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF 3 DECEMBER 1992 concerning the relationship between industrial competitiveness and environmental protection.
	92/C 331/06	COMMISSION COMMUNICATION in pursuance of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1973/92 of 21 May 1992 establishing a financial instrument for the environment (LIFE) concerning priority actions to be implemented in 1993.
C 332		ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
	92/C 332/04	Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive amending for the thirteen time Directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations.
	92/C 332/16	Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive on the incineration of hazardous waste.
	92/C 332/23	Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision establishing a multiannual programme for the development of Community statistics on Research, Development and Innovation.

3. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ON THE CREATION OF A EUROPEAN INLAND WATERWAY NETWORK (COM (92) 231 FINAL)

A Council Decision (COM (92) 231 final) on the creation of a European inland waterway network, was published in the Official Journal on September 15 1992 (OJ N° C 236/19).

The aim is for the network, as specified in the master plan given in the Annex of the Decision, to be developed over a period of at least ten years. The Network will incorporate existing river basins and a number of major traffic routes using rivers and canals and the branches and links which connect them, with the intention of serving industrial regions and major conurbations in mainland Europe and linking them to major seaports.

Priority measures to be taken include the elimination of identified bottlenecks and the creation of links which are missing.

The Council sees the creation of such a Network as an essential development, firstly, as a means for a more efficient transport infrastructure between major seaports and industrialised regions of the European hinterland (thus improving the functioning of the internal market) and secondly as the development of a less expensive, less polluting and low energy-consuming mode of transport.

4. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) ESTABLISHING A COHESION FUND (COM (92) 339 FINAL)

A proposed Council Regulation to establish a Fund to contribute to the strengthening of the economic and social cohesion of the Community was published in the Official Journal on the 25 September 1992 (OJ N° C 248/15).

The Fund will provide financial support to projects in the fields of environment and trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure in Member States with a per capita GNP of less than 90% of the Community average and which have a programme leading to the fulfilment of the condition of economic convergence as set out in Article 104c of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

Projects eligible for support by the Fund are:

- environmental projects contributing to the achievement of the objectives of Article 103r of the Treaty, including projects resulting from the measures adopted pursuant to Article 130 of the Treaty;
- transport infrastructure projects which contribute to the achievement of the objectives of Article 129b of the Treaty including projects resulting from the adopted pursuant to Article 129c of the Treaty;
- preparation studies and technical support measures related to eligible projects.

With the exception of preparation studies and technical support measures necessary for the implementation of eligible projects (which may be financed up to 100%) the rate of assistance for such projects will be 85 to 90% of public or similar expenditure. Projects will not be allowed to benefit simultaneously from this Fund and from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, the European Social Fund or the European Regional Development Fund. Where a project benefits from the Community assistance the combined grant assistance from the Community will not exceed 90% of public or similar assistance.

The proposed Regulation gives a financial commitment from 1993 to 1997 of a total of ECU 10 000 million at 1992 prices (ECU 1 500 million for 1993 and an annual increase of ECU 250 million to be added each subsequent year from 1994 resulting in 1997 in a figure of ECU 2 500 million at 1992 prices).

5. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE CO-ORDINATING PROCEDURES FOR THE AWARD OF PUBLIC SUPPLY CONTRACTS (COM (92) 346 FINAL - SYN 442)

On 26 October 1992 a proposal for a Council Directive co-ordinating procedures for the award of public supply contracts was published in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ C 277). This Directive aims, as its title suggests, to co-ordinate procedures for the award of public supply contracts. It constitutes a redraft of Directive 77/62/EEC and all subsequent amendments following its introduction. The Directive has been formulated to correlate with Directive 92/50/EEC (relating to the co-ordination of procedures for the award of public service contracts) and with the Directive concerning the co-ordination of procedures for the awards of public works contracts, still to be published.

The Directive introduces common rules for the participation in public supply contracts including qualitative selection criteria, criteria for the award of contracts and criteria in the technical field to take account of Community Policy on standards and specifications. It will apply to contracts involving the purchase, lease, rental or hire purchase of products between a supplier and Member State, regional or local authorities, bodies governed by public law or associations formed by one or more such bodies. However, the Directive will not apply to contracts in the water, energy, transport and telecommunication sectors, as these are covered by Directive 90/531/EEC. Contracts with a value less than ECU 200 000 are exempted, as are defence contracts in specified areas whose value falls above this threshold or contracts which are declared secret or which must be accompanied by special security measures. Those contracts worth less than the threshold defined in the Agreement on Governmental Procurement (GATT Agreement) will also be exempt from the conditions laid down in this Directive. The GATT threshold will be revised every two years. Methods of calculating the value of contracts are given in the Directive.

In most cases contracts should be awarded through the use of open or restricted procedures, and only in limited cases (outlined below) may a negotiated procedure be used. An open procedure is defined as a procedure by which all interested suppliers may submit tenders for a contract, while a restricted procedure is described as a procedure when only invited suppliers may submit a tender. Negotiated procedures are specified as cases where the contracting party invites certain suppliers to negotiate the terms of the agreement. A restricted procedure must have at least 5 and no more than 20 candidates whilst a negotiated procedure must have at least 3 candidates.

Negotiated procedures will only be permitted in the following cases and the numbers of these cases must be limited although the limitations are not defined:

- when irregular tenders (irregular is not defined) are received in response to an open or restricted procedure;
- when tenders are received in response to an open or restricted procedure;
- when tenders submitted are unacceptable under National conditions;

- when there is an absence of tenders in response to an open or restricted procedure;
- when the product concerned will be used only for research and development purposes;
- when for certain reasons only one supplier may manufacture or deliver the product;
- when unforeseeable events dictate urgency;
- when supplies must be compatible with existing equipment (such contracts may last for a maximum of three years).

Notices advertising the intention of a contracting authority to award a contract will have to be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities as well as the press of the country concerned (costs of publication in the Official Journal will be met by the Communities). Such notices should contain enough information to allow suppliers to ascertain whether or not the contract is of interest to them and will include the specifications for the contract and the criteria by which the contract will be awarded. In addition, within 48 days of a contract being awarded, a notice publicising the fact must be published in the Official Journal.

The contracting authority will be obliged to supply the reasons for the rejection of a tender and the name of the successful supplier on request as well as the grounds for non-award of the contract. It will also be required to compile a written report recording details of the procedures carried out and decisions made when determining the award of the contract. Such records must be provided to the Commission on request.

The following minimum time limits for receipt of tenders have been proposed:

Open procedures	≥ 52 days from dispatch of notice
Restricted procedures	≥ 40 days from dispatch of invitations to tender 10 days in case of urgency
Negotiated procedures	≥ 37 days from dispatch of notice 15 days in case of urgency

Contracting authorities will only be permitted to award contracts either on the basis of lowest price only or to the most economically advantageous tender. Technical specifications must meet EC standards in addition to those of the country in question.

Suppliers will be excluded from the procedure if they are, or are in the process of becoming, bankrupt or in receivership, if they have been proven guilty of professional misconduct, or if obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or taxes have not been met. Proof of the above may be requested. In addition, evidence

confirming the suppliers financial and economic standing and technical capability may be requested as may confirmation of enrolment in the professional or trade register of the country in which he is based. Registration on a Member State's official list of recognised suppliers constitutes a presumption of suitability.

Statistical reports of awarded supply contracts will have to be submitted by each Member State to the Commission on an annual basis.

6. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE (EEC) ON THE ECOLOGICAL QUALITY OF SURFACE WATERS

Details of the proposed Directive on the ecological quality of surface waters were given in Summary Reports on Environmental Developments N° 5 (March 1991) and N° 6 (June 1991). This showed that the European Commission had hoped to publish a broad framework of the proposed Directive as far back as November/December 1991.

Despite numerous attempts by the Commission to agree a text for the proposed Directive, some difficulties still remain and, as of early December 1992, it has not been published in the Official Journal. Main difficulties seem to be with resolving differences in approach and priorities between the Directorates General for the Environment and for Agriculture and the need to consider the requirements for subsidiary with respect to the proposed Directive. It is unlikely that the draft will be published until a new Commissioner for the Environment is appointed. This is not expected to take place until early 1993*. Thus the earliest that the draft could appear in the Official Journal is Spring 1993. However, unless some urgency is applied it may not appear until much later.

* Stop press

On 22 December, it was announced that the new Commissioner for the environment from the beginning of 1993 will be Ioannia Paleokrassas. Further details of the new Commissioner will be given in the next edition of these Summary reports.

7. EC FOURTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (1994 - 1998)

The Commission has just circulated its Working Paper on the Fourth Framework Programme for research and technological development (1994-1998).

The scope of this Fourth Framework Programme has been determined on the basis of one of the most important new RTD provisions introduced in the Maastricht Treaty. Under this provision, the Framework Programme is to include all the RTD activities covered by the Treaty. Thus all Community research and technological development activities, whatever their form and under whichever common policy they fall, are included within the Framework Programme.

There are four key activities which go to make up the Framework Programme:

- (a) implementation of research, technological development and demonstration programmes, by promoting co-operation with and between undertakings, research centres and universities;
- (b) promotion of co-operation in the field of Community research, technological development and demonstration with third countries and international organisations;
- (c) dissemination and optimisation of the results of activities in Community research, technological development and demonstration;
- (d) stimulation of the training and mobility of researchers in the Community.

Overall funding proposed for the Fourth Programme is shown below:

Activity	ECU (million) (1992 prices)
(a) First Activity	11 600
(b) Second Activity	1 400
(c) Third Activity	700
(d) Fourth Activity	1 000
Total	14 700

The contents of the Fourth Framework Programme were determined with two main objectives: strengthening the competitive position of our industry at international level and the improvement of the quality of life. These two main objectives are closely linked and interdependent.

The contents of each activity are set out as a series of core themes. The technical details of the content of the various activities are not yet fully developed and will be given later in the specific programmes.

The Environment field is covered in the area of first activity under the following core themes:

- Global Change
- Environmental Quality and Human Health
- Natural Hazards
- Innovative Technologies and Infrastructure for Marine and Polar Research

Other core themes which have a significant environmental interest include:

- Advanced Manufacturing Technologies
(emphasis on clean manufacturing processes and techniques to reduce environmental impact)
- Materials and the Processing
(addresses recycling and recovery of materials)
- Measurement and Testing
(includes development of new methods of evaluating hazards of dangerous chemicals)
- Science and Technology for a New Urban Habitat
(to contribute to the solution of acute problems of life in cities including the environment and health)
- Technology for Transport Means
(includes energy efficiency, cleaner emissions, recycling techniques, environmentally acceptable technologies to improve the infrastructure)

The Energy field contains the following themes, each with a high or potentially high environmental significance:

- Electricity and Heat from Renewable Sources
- Better and Cleaner Production and Use of Energy
- Safety Aspects of Nuclear Activities
- Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion

Activity areas (b), (c) and (d) also contain elements within their objectives which are of potential relevance in the environmental field.

The Council of Research Ministers met on 9th December 1992 to hold an orientation debate. The Fourth Framework Programme is anticipated to evolve and develop in the light of this meeting and the wider consultation process.

8. EUROPEAN WASTE CATALOGUE DRAFT NO 4

The amended Hazardous Waste Directive (91/689/EEC), adopted in December 1991, (replacing the framework Directive on toxic and dangerous waste (78/319/EEC)), must be implemented by Member States by December 1993. The Directive has created the mechanisms to achieve the development of a consistent definition of hazardous waste across the EC and a committee of national experts, chaired by the Commission, is compiling a list of wastes to be treated as 'hazardous'. The list has to be drawn up by the Commission no later than six months before the implementation of the Directive. In addition, Member States are to notify the Commission of other wastes which they consider display hazardous properties, for review and possible inclusion on the list.

The latest version of this list, the European Waste Catalogue (Draft N° 4) was published by the Commission for consultation on the 1 November 1992 with additions published on the 10 November. The list is based on Annex I of the new Directive (which features generic categories of hazardous waste) and Annex II (which identifies more than 50 constituents of wastes which render them hazardous). In addition, wastes on the list must possess one or more of the 15 hazardous properties identified in Annex III of the Directive. Threshold concentrations above which substances should be classified as hazardous may be included on the list.

The list has been drawn up by an external contractor and wastes are listed by sector of activity (21 sectors in all). Hazardous attributions have been given to wastes in some of the sectors, the rest are under consultation. The addition published on 10 November gave hazardous attributions for wastes in a further six of the sectors. Amendments for some sector titles were also given.

In addition, in the UK, Waste Management Paper N° 23 relating to Special Wastes which has been issued for consultation is awaiting publication until after agreement on the catalogue.

9. DRINKING WATER MATTERS*

9.1 Revision of WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality

The final task group meeting for the revision of the WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality was held in Geneva from 21-25 September. This group finalised the guideline values and also volume 1 of the Guidelines. This process was the final ratification of the proposals which have been prepared over the past three years.

Guidelines were proposed for microbiological parameters and for a substantial number of chemical parameters including 17 inorganics, 27 organics, 33 pesticides and 17 disinfectants and disinfectant by-products. Guidelines were also prepared for radio-activity.

The meeting was attended by representatives from 34 countries with observers from a number of other countries including the European Commission.

WHO reaffirmed that the first priority was an adequate supply of water followed by microbiologically safe water and finally water which meets the guidelines for chemical parameters. They reaffirmed that microbiological quality should not be compromised in meeting guidelines for chemical contaminants. No formal guidelines were proposed for parameters affecting the aesthetic quality of water since acceptability will vary according to circumstances. However, the importance of aesthetically acceptable drinking water was emphasised.

Among the chemical parameters for which there were important changes was lead. The new guideline value is $10 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ based on an allocation to drinking water of 50% of the WHO provisional tolerable weekly intake for bottle fed infants. However, it is recognised that this guideline will take time to meet and must be seen as part of an overall programme for the reduction of lead exposure.

It is anticipated that the guidelines will be published in the late spring of 1993 in three volumes similar to the 1984 Guidelines but with a much more comprehensive presentation of the data and rationale for each guideline.

* Please note:

It is usual for these Summary Reports to carry details of the latest activities on Drinking Water Matters by EUREAU and by the UK Cryptosporidium Research Steering Committee. However, during the last quarter neither organisation has announced any issues of particular note.

10. CEN ACTIVITIES

This note summarises developments in CEN committees/groups and their UK 'shadow' groups dealing with the effects of materials on water quality and analytical methods as perceived by WRc Medmenham staff as a result of their participation in the activities of these committees and groups.

With regard to the development of packages of European standards, in particular for approval of materials and products to be used in contact with drinking water under the Construction Products, Utilities and Public Procurement Directives, BT (Technical Board of CEN) has reminded all TCs (Technical Committees) of the need to prepare interrelated standards as packages since the Construction Products, Utilities and Public Procurement Directives are seen as essential parts of the mechanism for creating a single market. Countries will be able to delay implementation of individual standards, retain their own national standards, until all the standards in a package are available.

At its meeting in September TC155/WG2 discussed conversion factors for migration tests on plastic pipes. There was disagreement as to whether conversion factors should form a separate standard or be put forward as recommendations. The discussion will continue at the next meeting in November.

There have been problems with the administration of TC164/WG3 which the convenors of the subsidiary AHGs (Ad-hoc groups) claim has been delaying the work of their groups. These problems were discussed by the UK shadow group (EPC/44/7) in October. At least some of these problems should be resolved at a convenors' meeting at the end of November.

TC164/WG3/AHG1-TC155/WG2 Joint Working Group at meetings in September and November has produced a draft method for testing organic products used in potable water piping systems for their affect on odour and flavour of water. After final editing and translation the draft should be available for enquiry, via TC164, in early 1993 provided TC164/WG3 is able to approve the draft.

TC164/WG3/AHG2, at its meeting in October, further discussed specifications of test waters for testing cementitious materials. The composition of low hardness test water, proposed by Denmark, was questioned. It was agreed to check the calculations and to prepare such water in the laboratory. The group also discussed the results of inter-laboratory migration tests on factory-made materials but no final conclusions could be drawn because of the different formats of the results supplied by the different laboratories.

TC164/WG3/AHG3 has initiated an inter-laboratory comparison of techniques to measure the ability of materials to support microbiological growth. Most of the twelve participating laboratories will use the British method BS6920 and some will also use the German DVGW W670 method. Results should be available in Spring 1993. The group has agreed to consider a three-stage approach to material testing; the first would be a rapid screening test which could be based on either current method. The method would also have a need for a test for ability to support pathogens and a long-term leaching test.

The group has requested TC164 to agree that the first standard should be written and issued in the form of an ENV pre-standard. This approach was agreed to at the EPC/44/7/2 meeting prior to the AHG meeting in September.

In October TC164/WG3/AHG4 worked on tidying up the current inventory of positive lists and discussed the format for acceptance criteria. Views from participating countries should be forwarded to the convenor and will be incorporated in a discussion document.

TC164 has voted to circulate 18 draft standards for chemicals produced by its WG9 for the 6-month CEN enquiry. WG9 will meet in December to review further draft standards. The first meeting of a new task group (TC164/WG9/TG9) on inorganic supporting and filtering materials was held in November and a provisional list of product standards and draft standard layout were agreed.

In contrast to comment in the previous report TC230/WG1/TG4 has now agreed a draft for an Analytical Quality Control Manual.

TC230/WG1/TG5 produced during its meetings in August and October a draft quantitative odour and flavour method for water. Although the procedure is very general it covers generally recognised acceptable procedures and, most importantly, includes a screening test for dealing with samples which are thought to have very low levels of odour or flavour. The draft SCA method was not incorporated but neither was it specifically excluded.

The two Task Groups, reporting to CEN/TC230/WG3 (Microbiological Methods) were constituted under the convenorships of Germany (TG1, Colony Count in Drinking Water) and UK (TG2, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in bottled mineral water) and held their first meetings in Rotterdam, in conjunction with CEN/TC230/WG3 (Microbiological Methods) and TC230, on 9-12 November. TG1 presented a working document, which will be revised for submission to WG3 at its next meeting. TG2 found that the existing ISO standard 8360 was poorly defined and could not be adapted suitably. Evidence will be sought in Europe by questionnaire, to provide information needed to compile a new working draft.

At Rotterdam, TC230 endorsed WG3's Resolution that work on European Standards for *Escherichia coli* and coliforms and for faecal streptococci in drinking, surface and bathing waters should respectively be transferred to WGs 2 and 4 of ISO/TC147/SC4, under the provisions of the Vienna Agreement, in order to secure economy of working. WG3 also resolved as part of its general policy, that all draft European standards developed by it should precisely define the target organism and the performance characteristics of the method, since these were lacking in the current ISO standards for microbiological methods and were a major source of criticism when they were submitted to the primary questionnaire voting procedure.

11. MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE OSLO AND PARIS COMMISSIONS

A Ministerial Meeting of the Oslo and Paris Commissions was held in Paris on 21-22 September 1992.

The result of the meeting was that the Ministers of the Contracting Parties to the Oslo and Paris Conventions and the Representative of the Commission of the European Communities responsible for the Protection of the Environment (representing the Commission of the European Communities):

- signed the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic;
- adopted and signed a Final Declaration;
- endorsed an Action Plan;
- adopted a total of 12 Decisions and Recommendations;
- endorsed reports prepared by the Oslo and Paris Commissions pursuant to the request addressed to the North Sea at the Third International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea;
- noted the reports on the activities of the Oslo and Paris Commission (1989 - 1992).

When the Convention, which remains open for signature until 30 June 1993, enters into force it will replace both the Oslo and Paris Conventions.

The Convention obliges contracting parties to 'take all possible steps to prevent pollution and eliminate pollution' and to take 'the necessary measures to protect the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities so as to safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems and when practicable, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected.'

In addition, contracting parties are obliged to:

- apply 'the precautionary principle' when there are 'reasonable grounds for concern' that the introduction into the marine environment of a substance or energy may result in a hazard to human health or resources or uses even when 'there is no conclusive evidence of a causal relationship between the inputs and the effects';
- apply 'the polluter pays principle';
- adopt programmes and measures to prevent and eliminate pollution and (taking into account the criteria set out in Appendix 1) define and apply best available techniques, best environmental practice and where appropriate clean technology.

Appendix 2 gives criteria which are to be used to set priorities, assessing the nature and extent of programmes and measures. The Convention states that according to the criteria given, substances which must be subject to programmes and measures include:

- heavy metals and their compounds;
- organohalogen compounds (and substances which may form such compounds in the marine environment);
- organic compounds of phosphorous and silicon;
- biocides such as pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, slimicides and chemicals used for the preservation of wood, timber, wood pulp, cellulose, paper, hides and textile;
- oils and hydrocarbons of petroleum origin;
- nitrogen and phosphorus compounds;
- radioactive substances including waste persistent synthetic material which may float, remain in suspension or sink.

In addition the Commission of this new treaty are obliged to draw up plans for the reduction and phasing out of substances arising from land-based sources that are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate and, when appropriate, programmes and measures for the reduction of inputs of nutrients from urban, municipal, industrial, agricultural and other sources.

Provisions on various activities are given in Annexes.

Under Annex I, Contracting Parties adopting programmes and measures for the prevention and elimination of pollution from land-based sources are required to use:

- best available techniques for point sources;
- best environmental practice for point and diffuse sources;

including where appropriate clean technology.

Contracting Parties are also required to take preventive measures to minimise the risk of pollution caused by accidents.

Annex II is on the prevention and elimination of pollution by dumping or incineration. This prohibits all incineration at sea and the dumping of wastes and other matter with the exception of:

- dredged material;
- inert materials of natural origin;

- sewage sludge until 31 December 1998;
- fish waste from industrial fish processing operations;
- vessels or aircraft until, at the latest 31 December 2004;
- low and intermediate radioactive wastes (with some exceptions)

and then these are not allowed occur without authorisation of the competent authorities.

When adopting programmes and measures in relation to radioactive substances the contracting parties must take into account recommendations of international organisations and agencies.

Other Annexes contain provisions on:

- the prevention and elimination of pollution from offshore sources;
- the assessment of the quality of the marine environment.

The Action Plan sets objectives for the future work of the Oslo and Paris Commissions which cover the following areas:

- information;
- land-based sources;
- diffuse sources;
- nutrients;
- radioactive substances;
- dumping;
- offshore sources;
- monitoring and assessment;
- compliance and effectiveness assessment.

12. ROAD AND STREET WORKS ACT 1991

The New Road and Street Works Act 1991 will come into effect from 1993. It will have a number of implications for the water industry, one of the most significant of which will result from the statutory code of practice entitled 'Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways'. The implementation of this code, which specifies that highways must be reinstated with backfill of a suitable grade, will cause the generation of large quantities of waste from road works and mean that Water plcs will be subject to the ever increasing volume of environmental legislation relating to waste disposal.

Backfill is graded from A (the highest quality) to E (classed automatically as waste). If the material excavated does not meet the new requirements then, providing it is not grade E, it can be upgraded by the addition of more granular materials or it can be designated waste. It is the responsibility of the engineer on site to have the material excavated from the road graded and to determine what course of action to take. If the material is designated as a waste, it must be taken away from the site and is subject to the relevant waste regulations made under Part II of the Environmental Protection Act.

13. THE UK ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION 1992 GARNER LECTURE

The Rt Hon. Lord Slynn of Hadley who this year takes over a president of the UK Environmental Law Association gave the 1992 Garner Lecture on Environmental Law on 24 November.

The Lecture was entitled 'Environmental Law in the European Court' and addressed the main issues arising during Lord Slynn's time as Judge of the European Court of Justice. The EC, he felt, has a special responsibility and opportunity to deal with transboundary pollution. Although developments in specific areas were important, the most significant long term development was the provision that environmental protection should be integrated into other EC policies.

Much of the court's work had been involved with judging the effective implementation of EC legislation. In general, where non-compliance occurred the decision was straightforward, however, judging partial compliance was more complicated. It was clear though that the court would continue to take a strong line insisting on full and effective implementation which was not only binding but clearly defined both for all the parties involved and for the general public.

One area where Lord Slynn anticipated major debate in the future was the adoption of environmental legislation under Articles 130s or 100a of the Treaty of Rome. The main difference being that legislation adopted under Article 100a must relate primarily to fair trade and can be passed under the co-operation procedure by majority voting, whilst legislation adopted under Article 130s must be passed unanimously. The most well known recent example of this was the setting aside of the Titanium Dioxide Directive adopted under Article 130s because it was judged to primarily enable fair trade between Member States. Its effect, however, was allowed to continue until a new Directive could be adopted.

Another contentious area was likely to be the recent judgement that national legislation should be interpreted in light of EC legislation even if it preceded the EC legislation.

The overall conclusion was that environmental protection would continue to be high on the EC agenda and that the European Court now has adequate means of redress to ensure that Member States fulfilled their obligations. (The Maastricht Treaty amends Article 171 of the Treaty of Rome to allow financial penalties to be levied against Member States failing to comply with judgements of the European Court).

14. GERMAN TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS ON URBAN WASTE (TECHNISCHE ANLEITUNG (TA) SIEDLUNGSABFALL) - SEWAGE SLUDGE DISPOSAL BURDEN FOR FARMERS

The German Technical Instructions on Urban Waste (Technische Anleitung Siedlungsabfall) established by the Federal Council and subject for consent by the Upper House of the German Parliament were published in late August of this year (Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Press report N° 78/92, Bonn, 27.08.1992.). They contain tight requirements for the disposal of urban waste and similar industrial wastes and will result in the disposal by landfill of such wastes being restricted to those which cannot be disposed of in any other way.

The Technical Instructions on Urban Waste were established due to problems with leachate and environmentally hazardous gasses arising from conventional urban landfill sites, and to restrict the amount of waste being landfilled so as to safeguard this disposal option for future use. They aim to produce an integrated disposal system comprising of waste minimisation, reduction of pollution load and environmentally friendly disposal of the residual wastes. They include:

1. Regulations for criteria to establish integrated waste management plans, comprising of:
 - waste minimisation;
 - recycling of waste;
 - environmentally friendly disposal;
 - the required plant structure:
2. Regulations on the reduction of the pollution load and recycling, concerning separate handling and collection of:
 - valuable materials;
 - mixtures of valuable materials;
 - problem materials:
3. Regulations on the pre-treatment of wastes including:
 - the treatment of the waste itself;
 - the condition of the residues;
 - if necessary the follow-up treatment of residues:
4. Regulations on the landfilling of wastes, resulting in restricting waste to inert and non-soluble wastes.

The regulations will result in the maximum organic proportion of sewage sludge allowed to be disposed of at these sites being restricted to 5%, a figure that can only be achieved after incineration. Since approximately 50% (1.2 million tds y⁻¹) of sewage sludge in Germany is currently disposed of to landfill and there are insufficient incineration plants available to cope with this large amount, a significant increase in agricultural utilization would be required to overcome the problem of disposal.

Farmers are therefore particularly concerned that they could be made responsible for soil pollution should stricter or new limits for pollutants with respect to soils be set. This has resulted in the German Farmers Association (Deutscher Bauernverband - DBF) demanding the establishment of a regulation for scientifically based limits for compost pollutants.

15. GREEN TAXES IN BELGIUM

In Brussels on 1 December 1992, the seven political parties finally agreed green taxes for a number of products (listed below). The taxes will take effect in January 1994 and the products will be labelled to show the tax applies to them. Other products that may soon be covered include, along with others, wine and spirit bottles, milk, plastic bags in shops and disposable lighters. An expert commission will be formed to consider them. For, milk decisions will be taken by 1998 but for the other products no time limits have been set.

With the exception of PVC bottles, products listed below will escape the ECO- tax if reused or recycled. From 1994 to 1998, the producer will have to attain a certain level (to be defined under the tax agreement) of recycling and reuse, if not, the ECO-tax will be applied. Bottles made in Belgium are primarily PET and can more easily avoid the ECO-tax compared to bottles from other countries which are primarily PVC. It has been suggested, by certain Belgium newspapers, that this may lead to a complaint from the Commission.

Products	Eco-taxes	
Batteries	20 BF	(or a returnable deposit of 10 BF)
Disposable razor	10 BF	
Disposable camera	300 BF 100 BF	if 80% can be reused
Packaging waste industry/ pesticides	25 BF l ⁻¹ (max=500 BF)	0 BF returnable from packaging
Pesticide (for non agricultural use)	2 to 10 BF g ⁻¹ of active substance according to toxicity	
PVC bottle (water...)	15 BF l ⁻¹	no reductions
Other bottles (sparkling water, beer, lemonade)	15 BF l ⁻¹ (min=7 BF)	

continued ...

Reused packaging (glass, PET, hard plastic)	0 BF	a deposit of 7 BF at least for a packaging of more than 50 cl (less than 50 cl=3.5F)
Recycled packaging (PET, aluminium can, glass)	0 BF	if the producer achieves a sufficient level of recycling and reuse
Cardboard/paper (except books)	10 BF kg ⁻¹	
	5 BF	if no use of gaseous chlorine
	0 BF	if producer reaches a sufficient level of recycling

16. NRA POLICY AND PRACTICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER

In December 1992, a year after the draft copy for consultation (summarised in FR 02080; Summary Report - 9), the final document of the first national policy for groundwater protection has been published by the NRA. In general, few changes have been made since the draft version. However, some parts of the policy are now more stringent. A national map at a scale of 1:1,000,000 has been attached to the final document.

Purpose of the Policy

The policy and the supporting maps provide a framework for decision-making, but they are not prescriptive and need to be qualified by site-specific considerations. The NRA will apply this policy, not only under its own powers, but also to influence the policies and decisions of others whose actions can affect the protection of groundwater by statutory or non-statutory consultation (e.g. the issuing a license to handle waste or operate a waste disposal site).

Modifications to the original Policy Statements

Changes of wording and reorganisation have been made to clarify, but not to change, the policy statements. The following sections set out the policy objectives of the NRA with respect to different types of threat to groundwater resources:

- A. Control of groundwater abstractions
- B. Physical disturbance of aquifers and groundwater flow
- C. Waste disposal to land
- D. Contaminated land
- E. The application of liquid effluents, sludges and slurries to land
- F. Discharges to underground strata
- G. Diffuse pollution of groundwater
- H. Additional activities which pose a threat to groundwater quality

The major changes in the different sections are listed below:

The section of waste disposal to land has been changed to include a tougher and more specific approach.

The integrated approach as defined in the European Groundwater Action Programme is emphasised more in a Table on landfill acceptability, matrix 1. This requires that, even if the planned site is not an aquifer, engineering measures must be taken to protect surface water where landfills have a high pollution potential (For example, those accepting domestic, commercial and industrial waste either individually or on a co-disposal basis).

In the same table, the hazardous activity classification has disappeared and activities have been reclassified into those with a high, medium and low pollution potential. This both clarifies and tightens the classification. Co-disposal has been introduced in the high pollution potential category.

The interval for reviewing Waste Management Licences has now been defined by the DoE as five years. This seems to allow an update of licence conditions once during the operation of a site and one or two times after the closure of a site.

The section on additional activities which pose a threat to groundwater quality has been changed to include further details of activities considered to be unacceptable by the NRA. An important point is that the NRA would object to the laying of new mains sewerage systems within Zone I.

Compared to the original draft fewer references are made to the proposed Directive on landfills that the EC is currently trying to introduce and NRA policy may be influenced by this in the future. For example, the Commission have expressed the desire to prohibit co-disposal altogether.