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# Environment DG Information Brochure

An introduction to the Directorate-General for the Environment of the European Commission and to sources of information on EU environmental policy.



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# Environment DG Information Brochure

An introduction to the Directorate-General for the Environment of the European Commission and to sources of information on EU environmental policy

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#### INFORMATION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

Information in all the official languages of the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

**Europe Direct** is a freephone service to help you find answers to your questions about the European Union and to provide information about your rights and opportunities as an EU citizen: 1800 55 31 88 (Ireland), 0800 58 15 91 (United Kingdom). A single phone number will replace the national numbers soon.

Further information and publication on the European Union can be obtained from European Representations in the Member States. A list of addresses can be found at [http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/represent\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/represent_en.htm)

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# Table of contents

4	The Environment DG
7	EU Environmental Policy
8	Environment Policy and the Treaties
9	The Aarhus Convention
10	Information from Environment DG
13	Useful web sites
14	Other sources of information
14	Frequently Asked Questions
17	Timeline
18	Glossary

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## The Environment DG

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The Environment DG is one of 36 Directorates-General (DGs) and specialised services which make up the European Commission. Its main role is to initiate and define new environmental legislation and to ensure that measures, which have been agreed, are actually put into practice in the Member States.

The Environment DG is based largely in Brussels (the unit dealing with radiation protection is based in Luxembourg). Around 550 staff work in the DG. An organisation chart showing the structure of the DG can be found on the Environment DG web site at :  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/environment/directory.htm>

### Environment DG Mission Statement

- To maintain and improve the quality of life through a high level of protection of our natural resources, effective risk assessment and management and the timely implementation of Community legislation.
- To foster resource-efficiency in production, consumption and waste-disposal measures.
- To integrate environmental concerns into other EU policy areas.
- To promote growth in the EU that takes account of the economic, social and environmental needs both of our citizens and of future generations.
- To address the global challenges facing us notably combating climate change and the international conservation of biodiversity.
- To ensure that all policies and measures in the above areas are based on a multi-sectoral approach, involve all stakeholders in the process and are communicated in an effective way.

### Initiating Community environmental policy

Before it issues draft legislation, the Environment DG carries out extensive preliminary soundings and discussions with representatives of governments, environmental NGOs, industry, special interest groups and, where necessary, technical experts. It takes account of these often competing interests when it prepares its proposals.

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Once a Commission proposal has been submitted to the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, the three institutions work together to produce the final text. The European Parliament shares the power of co-decision with the Council in most areas and has to be consulted in others. When revising its proposals the Commission is required to take Parliament's amendments into consideration.

## Ensuring that European environmental legislation is applied correctly

The Environment DG acts to ensure that EU environmental legislation is applied correctly by the Member States. Where necessary, action is taken against those in the public or private sector that fail to respect their treaty obligations. Legal proceedings can be instigated against Member States or businesses that fail to comply with European environmental law and, as a last resort, they can be brought before the European Court of Justice.

## International role

The Environment DG also represents the EU at international level, promoting international action to address global and transboundary environmental problems.

In addition to the above, the Environment DG works towards the **integration** of environmental concerns into other policy areas and the provision of environmental **information**.

The Environment DG management plan is available at:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/environment/mission\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/environment/mission_en.htm)



## Previous Commissioners were:

(1973–77): Carlo Scarascia-Mugnozza  
 (1977–81): Lorenzo Natali  
 (1981–85): Karl-Heinz Narjes  
 (1985–88): Stanley Clinton Davis  
 (1989–92): Carlo Ripa Di Mena  
 (1992–94): Ioannis Paleokrassas  
 (1995–99): Ritt Bjerregaard

When we talk about ‘the Commission’ as a political body, we mean the 20 Commissioners (or Members of the Commission) at its head. Commissioners are men and women who have generally sat in national parliaments or the European Parliament or who have held high office in their home countries, often at ministerial level, before coming to Brussels. The Commission is appointed for a five-year term.

6



Each DG and service of the Commission is headed by a director-general, who is equivalent in rank to the top civil servant in a government ministry. The directors-general report to a commissioner, each of whom has the political and operational responsibility for one or more DGs. The present Commissioner for the environment is Margot Wallström.

Along with the *European Commission*, the other institutions involved in running the European Union are the *European Parliament* (elected by the peoples of the Member States), the *Council* (representing the governments of the Member States), the *Court of Justice* (ensuring compliance with the law) and the *Court of Auditors* (responsible for auditing the accounts). These institutions are supported by other bodies: the *Economic and Social Committee* and the *Committee of the Regions* (advisory bodies which help to ensure that the positions of the EU’s various economic and social categories and regions respectively are taken into account), the *European Ombudsman* (dealing with complaints from citizens concerning maladministration at European level), the *European Investment Bank* (EU financial institution) and the *European Central Bank* (responsible for monetary policy in the euro area).

Margot Wallström, Commissioner responsible for the environment.

## EU environmental policy

Over the last 30 years, major progress has been made in establishing a comprehensive system of environmental controls in the EU. Action began in 1972 with four successive action programmes, based on a vertical and sectoral approach to ecological problems. The fifth environment action programme (1992–2000) focused on reducing pollution levels, implementing legislation that would benefit EU citizens and integrating the environmental dimension into all areas of Commission policies.

**The sixth environment action programme 2001–10 (6EAP)** gives a new sense of purpose and direction to the Community's environmental policy. It clearly sets out the objectives for the next decade and determines the actions that will need to be taken within a 5–10 year period if those goals are to be achieved.

The new programme puts forward a series of actions to tackle persistent environmental problems in four priority areas:

- climate change;
- nature and biodiversity;
- environment and health and quality of life;
- natural resources and waste.





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The strategic approach is underpinned by five major objectives that each emphasise the need for more effective implementation and more innovative solutions:

- improve the implementation of existing environmental legislation at national and regional level;
- integrate environmental concerns into other policy areas;
- work closely with business and consumers in a more market-driven approach to identify solutions;
- ensure better and more accessible information on the environment for citizens;
- develop a more environmentally conscious attitude towards land-use planning.

The 6EAP goes further than previous programmes. It is the most strategic approach yet adopted by the Commission and calls upon the active involvement and accountability of all sections of society in the search for innovative, workable and sustainable solutions to the environmental problems we face. The 6EAP effectively provides the environmental component of the Community's overall strategy for sustainable development.

The full text of the programme and further information can be found at:  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/newprg/index.htm>

## Environment policy and the Treaties

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There was no mention of environmental protection in the 1957 Treaty of Rome. It was not until the 1970s that the emergence of environmental concerns triggered moves in this area at Community level. At the **July 1972** Paris Summit it was recognised that, in the context of economic expansion and improving the quality of life, particular attention should be paid to the environment.

Subsequently the first environment action programme (EAP) was adopted, covering the period from **1973 to 1976**. This was followed by other multi-annual programmes of the same type, which led to the adoption of a series of directives.

The entry into force of the Single European Act in **1987**, adding a title specifically on the subject (Articles 130r–130t) to the Treaty, is generally acknowledged as the turning point for the environment. The Treaty also introduced the new idea that 'Environmental protection requirements shall be a component of the Community's other policies'.

The entry into force of the Treaty on European Union in November **1993** brought further progress on several fronts. It added the concept of 'sustainable and non-inflationary growth respecting the environment' to the European Community's tasks and wrote the precautionary principle into the article on environment. It also upgraded 'action ... relating to the environment' to the status of a 'policy' in its own right.

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The Treaty of Amsterdam, which entered into force in 1999, enshrines the principle of sustainable development in Article 2. The clause calling for environmental protection requirements to be integrated into the definition and implementation of other policies, which had been in Article 130r, was placed in Article 6.

No substantive changes are foreseen in the Treaty of Nice.

## The Aarhus Convention

The Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters – known as the Aarhus Convention after the Danish city where it was adopted in June 1998 – seeks to strengthen the role of members of the public and environmental organisations in protecting and improving the environment for the benefit of future generations.

### Specifically, the Convention aims to

- allow members of the public greater access to environmental information held by public authorities, thereby increasing the transparency and accountability of government;
- provide an opportunity for people to express their opinions and concerns on environmental matters and ensure that decision makers take due account of these;
- provide the public with access to review procedures when their rights to information and participation have been breached, and in some cases to challenge more general violations of environmental law.



In practical terms, this means for instance, that local residents must be given a say in new road schemes or in the siting of household waste incinerators. Members of the public also have a right to know what state their environment is in and, in some circumstances, to sue governments or polluters that attempt to cover up environmental disasters.

The Convention has been signed by over 40 European countries, including all 15 EU Member States and the European Community. Only Denmark and Italy have so far ratified the Convention but other EU countries and the European Community are expected to follow soon. **The Convention entered into force on 30 October 2001.** Further information, including current ratification details, is available on the UNECE web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html>

The European Commission web site on **access to documents** is at:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat\\_general/sgc/acc\\_doc/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgc/acc_doc/index_en.htm)

Details of the **Commission's code of conduct** is available at:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat\\_general/code/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/code/index_en.htm)

A standard **complaint form** for failure by a Member State to comply with Community law can be found at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat\\_general/sgb/lexcomm/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/lexcomm/index_en.htm)

## Information from the Environment DG

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### Environment DG web site

(<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment>)

Over 3000 pages of information and 2500 documents on the policies and actions of the Environment DG. Most information is in English.

Hints: Use the index (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/abc.htm>) and What's new (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/whatsnew.htm>) to find your way around.

### Publications

The Environment DG publishes around 40 new publications each year. A complete list of available titles can be found in the online publications catalogue:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/pubs\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/pubs_en.htm)

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## Newsletters

*Environment for Europeans* is the quarterly magazine on EU environmental issues produced by the Environment DG. The magazine is free of charge and available in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Subscriptions and further information can be obtained at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/news/efe/index.htm>

*Natura 2000* is the Environment DG's nature newsletter. It is produced two to three times per year in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish and is free of charge. Further information can be obtained at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/news/natura/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/news/natura/index_en.htm)

## Eurobarometer

In 1999, the Environment DG commissioned a survey to find out what Europeans thought about their environment. In all 83 % of Europeans said that they considered the protection of the environment as a priority for the EU and 55 % believed that decisions relating to the protection of the environment should be made at EU level. Further information can be obtained at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/barometer/index.htm>

## Information Centre

The Environment DG Information Centre is located at the main offices at avenue de Beaulieu 9 in Brussels and is open to the public from 1 p.m to 5 p.m each weekday. The Centre has a selection of free publications available and a reference library of books, reports, studies and magazines on environmental matters. The library catalogue can be accessed externally via the ECLAS database (<http://europa.eu.int/eclas/>).

Staff of the Centre are happy to answer queries on EU environmental policy. You can contact us by e-mail at [envinfo@cec.eu.int](mailto:envinfo@cec.eu.int) or by fax at + 32 2 299 61 98.

Requests for free Environment DG publications should be sent to [env-pubs@cec.eu.int](mailto:env-pubs@cec.eu.int).

Sometimes it is better to consider sources of environmental information available in your own language in your own country first.

For example, Ministries for the environment:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/abc/governments/index\\_en.html](http://www.europa.eu.int/abc/governments/index_en.html)

Commission representations in the Member States:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/represent\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/represent_en.htm)

Commission delegations in third countries:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/repdel/index\\_rep\\_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/repdel/index_rep_en.cfm)

EIONET: <http://eionet.eea.eu.int/index.shtml>



## Useful web sites

**EUR-Lex:** <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>

EUR-Lex contains the texts of EU legislation in force, preparatory documents and recent Official Journals. Available free of charge in all the official EU languages.

Hints: Section 15 deals with environment ([http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/lif/ind/en\\_analytical\\_index\\_15.html](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/lif/ind/en_analytical_index_15.html))

**CELEX:** <http://www.europa.eu.int/celex/>

CELEX allows more sophisticated and comprehensive searching on EU legislation. The four principal groups of documents are legislation, case-law, preparatory documents and parliamentary questions. Available in all the official EU languages on a subscription basis.

**PreLex:** <http://europa.eu.int/prelex/apcnet.cfm>

PreLex, the database on interinstitutional procedures, follows the major stages of the decision-making process between the Commission and the other institutions. Available free of charge in all the official EU languages.

**OEIL:** <http://wwwdb.europarl.eu.int/dors/oeil/en/default.htm>

European Parliament database following legislative procedures and activities of the institutions.

**RAPID:** <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/welcome.htm>

Daily press releases in all languages from the EU institutions. Updated every day at midday.

**SCADPlus:** [http://www.europa.eu.int/scadplus/scad\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/scadplus/scad_en.htm)

Background information on EU policies with a comprehensive environment section at: <http://www.europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/s15000.htm>

**ECLAS:** <http://europa.eu.int/eclas>

Bibliographic database of books, studies and reports held in the Environment DG Information Centre and other Commission libraries. Links to PDF texts are provided where possible.

**European Parliament factsheets:**

[http://www.europarl.eu.int/factsheets/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/factsheets/default_en.htm)

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## Other sources of information:

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**European Environment Agency (EEA)** – <http://eea.eu.int/>

Kongens Nytorv 6

DK-1050 Copenhagen

Tel: (45) 33 367100

Fax: (45) 33 367199

E-mail: [eea@eea.eu.int](mailto:eea@eea.eu.int)

The European Environment Agency in Copenhagen was set up in 1993 to provide reliable scientific data and evaluations for those involved in implementing and developing European environment policy. Among its tasks is the production of 'State of the Environment' reports. The latest report 'Environment in the European Union at the turn of the century' was published in 1999.

**Joint Research Centre** – <http://www.jrc.cec.eu.int/>

The JRC is a Directorate-General of the European Commission, providing independent science and technology advice to European policy makers.

- European Chemicals Bureau: <http://ecb.jrc.it/>
- European Soil Bureau: <http://www.ei.jrc.it/sw/projects/ESB/>
- European IPPC Bureau: <http://eippcb.jrc.es>

**Euro Info Centres and Carrefours** – [http://europa.eu.int/relays/index\\_en/htm](http://europa.eu.int/relays/index_en/htm)

Extensive network of information centres and contact points set up by the Union for the public.

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## Frequently asked questions

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### What areas of environmental legislation are dealt with by the Commission?

The area is very broad in terms of control both of environmental quality standards for air and water as well as control on processes and products that may be responsible for giving rise to pollution emission. A full range of areas is covered from chemicals and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to nature and wildlife protection, air quality and climate change.

## What have been the main areas of change and progress in recent years?

The review of the fifth environment action programme illustrated progress in a number of areas such as reduction of acidifying gases due to the legislation on large combustion plants, some improvement in urban air quality as the car emission directive starts to show effect, and also in water quality with controls on industries and municipal waste water.

## How is the environmental agenda at EU level likely to develop?

The priority issues in the sixth environment action programme will be to limit climate change, protect nature and biodiversity, ensure the sustainable management of resources and waste as well as health and environment issues. The achievement of our objectives in these areas will require a combination of measures – implementation of existing legislation, greater emphasis on market instruments, empowerment of citizens and integration of environmental objectives into other policy areas.

## How do consumer and environmental organisations input into the legislative process?

Before the adoption of a proposal by the Commission, all kinds of bodies are consulted and then involved in the decision-making process. These range from Member States, specialised interest groups, environmental NGOs, technical experts, industry, etc.

## What are the principal drivers of the environmental agenda (environmental NGOs, business, government, consumers)?

This question depends very much on specific circumstances, such as on the environmental issue in question. For example, in the current GMO debate, 'Greenpeace' has been one of the main drivers on the anti-GMO front, whereas GMO-industry argues very much in favour of GMOs. In some cases it can be Member States who push a particular issue – the focus on acidification issues in recent years is very much the result of pressure from the Scandinavian countries. Otherwise, it can be argued that it is more the state of the environment itself rather than anything else, which drives the environmental agenda, the Environmental Agency state of the environment report being very much the basis for defining priorities for the sixth environment action programme.





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## What is sustainable development?

*'Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'*

The concept of sustainable development was first used prominently in the 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) and at the subsequent UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Sustainable development (SD) is a sound approach to policy-making as it looks at the long term and at interlinkages between different developments and policy actions.  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eussd/index.htm>

## What about subsidiarity?

The Environment DG takes the principle of subsidiarity into account in its proposals, initiating legislation only in areas where the European Union is better placed than individual Member States to take effective action. Subsidiarity is enshrined in the Treaty on European Union.

## Where can I find information on funding opportunities from the Environment DG?

Our web site contains comprehensive information on funding opportunities. The main financial instrument is LIFE, but there is also an annual call for proposals and specific actions for environmental NGOs and civil protection. Full details at:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/funding/intro\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/funding/intro_en.htm)

## How can I find out about job opportunities with the Environment DG?

Recruitment to the European Commission is normally via one of the widely advertised 'competitions' although temporary posts are sometimes available. Full information on career opportunities can be found at: <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg09/career/en/cover.htm>

## Where can I find environmental statistics?

Eurostat (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/>) or the European Environment Agency (<http://www.eea.eu.int/>).

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**For more frequently asked questions, please consult our Internet site at:**  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/faqs.htm>

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## Timeline

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- 1967** First environmental Directive adopted, 67/548, on classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.
- 1972** EC Paris Summit calls on the Commission to produce a programme for environmental action.
- 1973** Formation within the European Commission of the Environment and Consumer Protection Directorate  
First EC environment action programme (1973–76).
- 1977** Second EC environment action programme (1977–81).
- 1981** Formation within the European Commission of the Directorate-General for Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection.
- 1983** Third EC environment action programme (1982–86).
- 1987** European Year of the Environment  
Fourth EC Environment action programme (1987–92)  
The Single European Act incorporates environmental policy into the Treaty of Rome.
- 1992** Fifth environment action programme (1992–2000)  
United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
LIFE I 1992–95  
European Union Eco-label scheme.
- 1993** Maastricht Treaty gives environmental action the status of an EU policy (Article 130r)  
EMAS — the eco-management and audit scheme.
- 1994** Formal establishment of the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen.
- 1996** LIFE II 1996–99.
- 1999** The Amsterdam Treaty makes environmental policy a key political objective of the Union.
- 2000** Global assessment of the fifth environment action programme  
LIFE III 2000–04.
- 2001** Proposal for the sixth environment action programme — COM(2001) 31 final.
- 2002** Rio +10, the follow-up to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro.

## Glossary

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<b>Agenda 21</b>	<a href="http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21text.htm">http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21text.htm</a>
<b>BREFs</b>	Best available techniques reference documents — European IPPC Bureau <a href="http://eippcb.jrc.es/">http://eippcb.jrc.es/</a>
<b>CAFE</b>	Clean air for Europe <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/air/cafe.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/air/cafe.htm</a>
<b>CEN</b>	European Committee for standardisation <a href="http://www.cenorm.be/">http://www.cenorm.be/</a>
<b>CFESD</b>	Consultative forum on the environment & sustainable development 1993–2001.
<b>COM Docs</b>	Most proposals for legislation, Green and White Papers, communications and other working documents are published as COM documents. These documents are numbered by the year of publication plus a running number e.g. COM(2000) 860. A list of environmental COM docs can be found on the Environment DG web site at: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/docum/index.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/docum/index.htm</a> A complete list of all COM docs can be found on the EUR-Lex database at: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/index1.html">http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/index1.html</a>
<b>Consolidated legislation</b>	Consolidation involves the integration of basic instruments of Community legislation, their amendments and corrections in single, non-official documents. Not all environmental legislation has yet been consolidated but existing texts can be found at: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/ind/en_analytical_index_15.html">http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/ind/en_analytical_index_15.html</a> These texts have no legal value; the text published in the Official Journal remains the official text.
<b>Decisions</b>	These can be addressed to Member States, companies or individuals and are fully binding on those to whom the decision is addressed.
<b>Directives</b>	These set objectives that have to be achieved but allow Member States to choose how to achieve them. Directives must normally be transposed into national legislation within two to three years after adoption.
<b>EAP</b>	Environmental action programme <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/newprg/index.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/newprg/index.htm</a>
<b>EC CHM</b>	European Community clearing house mechanism <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/biodiversity/index_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/biodiversity/index_en.htm</a>
<b>EEA</b>	European Environment Agency <a href="http://www.eea.eu.int/">http://www.eea.eu.int/</a>
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental impact assessment <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/home.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/home.htm</a>
<b>Einecs</b>	European inventory of existing commercial chemical substances <a href="http://ecb.jrc.it/existing-chemicals/">http://ecb.jrc.it/existing-chemicals/</a>
<b>EIONET</b>	European environment information & observation network <a href="http://eionet.eea.eu.int/index.shtml">http://eionet.eea.eu.int/index.shtml</a>

<b>EMAS</b>	Environmental management & eco-audit schemes <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/emas/index.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/emas/index.htm</a>
<b>ELVs</b>	End-of-life vehicles Directive 2000/53/EC OJ L 269 pp. 34–43.
<b>EOTC</b>	European organisation for testing & certification <a href="http://www.eotc.be/">http://www.eotc.be/</a>
<b>EPER</b>	European pollutant emission register <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ippc/eper.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ippc/eper.htm</a>
<b>EUR-OP</b>	The Office for Official Publications based in Luxembourg is the official publisher for the EU institutions. They work through a network of sales agents in the Member States. They also produce a free quarterly magazine EUR-OP News which contains articles on the latest developments in EU policy and lists new publications. <a href="http://eur-op.eu.int/general/en/abnews.htm">http://eur-op.eu.int/general/en/abnews.htm</a>
<b>EWC</b>	European waste catalogue Decision 2001/118/EC (OJ L47 of 16.02.2001).
<b>FFH</b>	Flora-fauna-habitat Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L203 of 22.7.1992).
<b>Green 8</b>	Grouping of eight of the largest European environmental NGOs.
<b>Green paper</b>	Commission Green Papers are documents intended to stimulate debate and launch a process of consultation at European level on a particular topic. Recent environmental Green Papers include: Integrated product policy and environmental issues of PVC. <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/off/index_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/off/index_en.htm</a>
<b>Green Spider</b>	An informal network of EU environment ministries <a href="http://www.ubavie.gv.at/greenspider/">http://www.ubavie.gv.at/greenspider/</a>
<b>ICZM</b>	Integrated coastal zone management <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm/home.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm/home.htm</a>
<b>IMPEL</b>	Implementation & enforcement of environmental law <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/impel/">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/impel/</a>
<b>IPP</b>	Integrated product policy <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ipp/home.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ipp/home.htm</a>
<b>IPPC</b>	Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ippc/index.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ippc/index.htm</a>
<b>LCPs</b>	Large combustion plants <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/air/stationary.htm#1">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/air/stationary.htm#1</a>
<b>OJ</b>	The Official Journal is the official publication of the European Union. The 'L' series contains texts of all Community legislation that have been adopted (directives, regulations, decisions) The 'C' series contains Community information and preparatory acts (i.e. non-binding texts). The OJ is published every weekday and can be accessed free of charge on the EUR-Lex database at: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html">http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html</a> Copies can also be ordered via sales agents of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

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<b>POPs</b>	Persistent organic pollutants.
<b>REC</b>	Regional environmental centre for central and eastern Europe <a href="http://www.rec.org/">http://www.rec.org/</a>
<b>Recommendations and opinions</b>	give non-binding Community views on a topic, normally to encourage good practices throughout the EU.
<b>Regulations</b>	create binding legislation which automatically enters into force in all Member States on a given date, usually several days after publication in the Official Journal.
<b>RIO +10</b>	Follow-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, in 1992.
<b>ROHS</b>	Restriction on use of hazardous substances in electrical equipment <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/docum/00347_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/docum/00347_en.htm</a>
<b>SACs</b>	Special areas of conservation Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 203 of 22.7.1992)
<b>SCI</b>	Site of Community importance Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 203 of 22.7.1992).
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic environmental assessment <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/home.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/home.htm</a>
<b>SMAP</b>	The short and medium-term priority environmental action programme is a framework programme of action for the protection of the Mediterranean environment, within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/smap/home.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/smap/home.htm</a>
<b>SPAs</b>	Special protection areas Directive 79/409/EC on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 59, 8.3.1996).
<b>VOCs</b>	Volatile organic compounds <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/voc/index.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/voc/index.htm</a>
<b>WEEE</b>	Waste from electrical and electronic equipment <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/docum/00347_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/docum/00347_en.htm</a>
<b>WFD</b>	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000) <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html</a>
<b>White Papers</b>	Commission White Papers are documents containing proposals for Community action in a specific area. In some cases they follow a Green Paper published to launch a consultation process at European level. Recent examples are the White Paper on environmental liability and the strategy for a future chemicals policy. <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/off/index_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/off/index_en.htm</a>

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European Commission

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