COUNCIL

Council

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

(adopted by the Council at its 893rd session on 27 February 1997 [C/M(97)4/PROV])
THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to Articles 1, 2, 5 (a) and 12 of the Convention on the Organisation on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

Having regard to the Terms of Reference of the Environment Committee [C(85)47/FINAL], as extended by the Resolution of the Council of 23 February 1990 [C/M(90)4(Final), Item 48], and as amended and extended by the Resolution of the Council of 12 March 1992 [C(92)25/FINAL];

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation;

Recognizing that the quest of societies for economic well-being and improved living standards often places undesirable and sometimes unanticipated pressures on the natural environment and on finite natural resources;

Mindful also of the potential risk to human health and well-being from certain socio-economic activities;

Aware that sustainable development requires that economic growth and environmental management policies be pursued by governments in an integrated and reinforcing manner;

Believing that the effective and efficient implementation of environmental policies is dependent on sound economic analysis, technological innovation and diffusion, and strong legal, institutional and administrative arrangements;

Aware also that close co-operation among governments, industry, labour and non-governmental environmental organisations, as well as public participation, are critical to building and maintaining public support for environmental investments and policies;

Conscious that OECD Member countries have a responsibility to safeguard their own environments, and have expressed a commitment to assist other nations in addressing their environmental challenges at the national level as well as to engage them in co-operative efforts to confront regional and global-scale environmental threats;

Recalling that OECD Environment Ministers, meeting in February 1996, reconfirmed the Environmental Strategy for the 1990s which embraces these perspectives;

DECIDES:

1. The Environment Policy Committee will have the following responsibilities:

   a) Provide a forum for Member countries to share views on, and consider policy responses to, major environmental issues and threats.

   b) Encourage co-operation among Member countries in the pursuit of shared environmental objectives, including inter alia, co-ordinated consultation on policies, approaches and major actions taken or proposed; data sharing; and joint research and analysis.
c) Promote, in support of sustainable development, the integration of environmental and economic policies, technological innovation and diffusion, and protection of unique environmental values and natural ecosystems.

d) Assess on a systematic basis the environmental performances of Member countries in relation to their national and international policies and commitments.

e) Develop and promulgate environmental indicators, and standardised, comparable sets of data and statistics, as a basis for identifying environmental trends, progress and deficiencies in individual Member countries and the OECD as a whole.

f) Promote the sharing with non-Member countries of the environmental management expertise, information and experience which reside in Member countries in the OECD.

g) Ensure that the views and expertise of non-government institutions are drawn upon in the conduct of OECD’s environmental work, utilising the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC), the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and contacts with environmental non-governmental organisations.

2. In the pursuit of these objectives, the Environment Policy Committee shall maintain close working relationships with other relevant bodies of the Organisation, seeking to ensure that the full capacity of the OECD is brought to bear on priority environmental issues, and that the overall environmental work programme of the Organisation is carried out in a fully co-ordinated manner.

3. The Environmental Policy Committee shall also maintain, as appropriate, and in conformity with the OECD Convention and Rules of Procedure, relations with other international organisations, seeking to achieve co-ordinated work programmes in areas of shared interest, and ensuring that the experience and expertise of other bodies is appropriately incorporated into the OECD environmental work.

4. These terms of reference are valid until 30 June 1999.

5. The Resolution of the Council of 12 March 1992, amending the name and the terms of reference of the Environment Committee [C(92)25/FINAL], is hereby repealed.

6. Paragraph 15 of the Annex of the Rules of Procedure shall be amended to read as follows:

“Environment Policy Committee: its terms of reference are defined in the Resolution of the Council [C(97)9/FINAL].”