

## **Manual of European Environmental Policy**

The following pages are a section from the Manual of European Environmental Policy written by the Institute for European Environmental Policy.

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This section is the text of the Manual as published in 2012. It is therefore important to note the following:

- The contents have not been updated since 2012 and no guarantee is given of the accuracy of the contents given potential subsequent developments.
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The Manual should be cited as follows:

Farmer, A.M. (2012) (Editor). Manual of European Environmental Policy. 1043pp. Routledge, London.

# Historical legislation: Environmental statistics

<b>Formal references</b>	
<a href="#">94/808/EC</a> (OJ L328 20.12.94)	Council Decision adopting a four-year development programme (1994–1997) relating to the environmental component of Community statistics
Proposed 22.8.90 – COM(90)319 (OJ L/1994/328/ 58)	
<b>Legal base</b>	Article 192 TFEU (originally Article 130s EEC Treaty)
<a href="#">1999/126/EC</a> (OJ L42 16.2. 99).	Council Decision on the Community Statistical Programme 1998–2002
Proposed 14.1 98 – COM(97)735	
<b>Legal base</b>	Article 337 TFEU (originally Article 213)
<b>Binding dates (94/808/EC)</b>	
Entry into force	15 December 1994
Commission Report on implementation	July 1997
<b>Binding dates (1999/126/EC)</b>	
Commission intermediate report	During 2000
Commission report evaluating programme	31 December 2003

## Purpose of the Decisions

Decision 94/808/EC established a programme to develop the environmental component of Community statistics in relation both to pressures on the environment and natural resources, and to the economic and social responses to environmental policies. It reflected a requirement in the Fifth Environmental Action Programme that traditional official statistics in the economic and social fields should be environmentally relevant. The programme was separate from, but complemented and was coordinated with, the work of the [European Environment Agency](#). Decision 1999/126/EC established the Community's general five-year statistical programme for the period 1998–2002, which included environmental statistics, and superseded Decision 94/808/EC.

## Summary of the Decisions

### *Decision 94/808/EC*

An Annex A described the areas in which Community statistics would be developed. These were:

- Extraction and consumption of raw materials.
- Production and consumption of agricultural and industrial products.
- Energy production and consumption.
- Construction and settlement.
- Leisure and tourism.
- Transport.
- Population growth, households and social welfare.
- Public services.

For each of these areas, data collected may relate to:

- Production processes, including techniques for preventing and reducing pollution.
- Output and handling of waste.
- Use of natural resources.
- Public and private expenditure.

A further priority area was to define an accounting framework which integrates environmental considerations into national accounts ('green accounting').

The methods through which this work proceeded included studies, pilot projects, data collection and the preparation of definitive texts setting out the content, definitions, classifications and data collection methods. The cost of extended data collection tasks in any one area was not to exceed 10 per cent of the existing resources currently allocated by Member States for these tasks.

The programme was to be administered by the Commission and the competent national statistical services designated by the Member States. The Commission was to be assisted by the Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities – a management committee comprising representatives of the official statistical services of the Member States.

The Decision made provision for coordination with the work of the [European Environment Agency](#).

### *Decision 1999/126/EC*

The Decision defined the approaches, the main fields and the objectives of the Community's general statistical programme for the period 1998–2002. An Annex I described statistical priorities under the 17 'Titles' identified in the Treaty on European Union, including that on environment policy. An Annex II sets out 99 'work themes'. 'Environment statistics and indicators' were included under the

heading 'Multi-domain statistics'. Environmental priorities in the five-year programme were:

- Further development of basic environmental data and their dissemination.
- Environmental statistics and indicators linking environment and economic sectors.
- Development of satellite 'green' accounts.
- Increased cooperation with the European Environment Agency.

## Development of the Decisions

### *Decision 94/808/EC*

The need for the collection of reliable environmental data was emphasized in the first environmental action programme in 1973. However, it was not until 1985 that the [CORINE programme](#) was established on an experimental three- (later five-) year basis for gathering, coordinating and ensuring the consistency of environmental information in a number of priority areas.

The importance of developing environment statistics within the EC's overall Statistical Programme formed part of a Council Resolution agreed in June 1989 (OJ C161 28.6.89). Subsequently, in 1990 the Community's Statistical office, EUROSTAT, began to publish a series of environmental statistics, and in August of that year the Commission presented a proposal for an ambitious 13.3 million ECUs four-year programme for extending EUROSTAT's role in this field. In the same year, Regulation (EEC) No 1210/90 formally established the [European Environment Agency](#), which was intended – when a Decision could be reached regarding its location – to play a leading role in the gathering and dissemination of environmental data.

The role that the Agency would play in the proposed four-year programme was not fully addressed in the Commission's initial proposal, and this issue was taken up by the European Parliament. The Parliament was also anxious to change the legal basis of the proposal to Article 100a in order to extend its influence through the cooperation procedure established under the Single European Act. In the event, delays both within the Parliament and the Council meant that the Decision was eventually adopted by means of the cooperation procedure under Article 130s of the Maastricht Treaty.

Reflecting the concerns of the Parliament and a number of Member States, the Decision as finally agreed included an Annex B which emphasized that annual statistical programmes in the field of the environment would be prepared in parallel with the European Environment Agency's annual work programme, and that both would be agreed by both EUROSTAT's Statistical Programme Committee and the Management Committee of the Agency.

The proposed Work Areas of the four-year development programme were also made far less ambitious in scope, and were selected to reflect the principal target sectors in the Fifth Environmental Action Programme *Towards Sustainability*.

### *Decision 1999/126/EC*

Decision 94/808/EC was not extended following its expiry at the end of 1997. Instead, the collection of environment-related statistics was incorporated into the Community's general five-year Statistical Programme 1998–2002. The Commission's justification for this was that the commitment in the Fifth Environmental Action Programme to the integration of environmental considerations into the Community's sectoral policies required the environment to be highlighted in other relevant socio-economic statistics in relation to such policy areas as social and regional development, agriculture, transport, energy and industry.

However, in 2000 only a very small proportion (2 per cent) of Eurostat's annual budget<sup>1</sup> was devoted to environmental statistics, and Decision 1999/126/EC notes in relation to the environment that resource constraints 'do not permit the desired comprehensive progress, even allowing for the increasing contribution of sectoral statistics (in other policy areas)'.

## **Implementation of the Decisions**

The Decisions did not have to be implemented by Member States themselves.

## **Enforcement and court cases**

No cases have been concluded by the European Court of Justice relevant to the Decisions.

## **Reference**

1. House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (2000) Minutes of Evidence from Eurostat and the European Environment Agency, 7 March 2000.