



Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe
Union des Confédérations de l'Industrie et des Employeurs d'Europe

Mr James Currie

Director General - DG XI
European Commission
rue de la Loi, 200
(MDB 04/21)
1049 Bruxelles

ZT/CdL/vb/12.1.6

2 February 1998

Dear Mr Currie,

Re: Ozone Air Quality Standards

Thank you for your time and for the constructive dialogue at our recent meeting on the above subject.

UNICE certainly recognizes the importance of air quality issues and also their high political profile. The resulting political difficulty of not adopting WHO-Europe guidelines as European Union air quality standards is understandable. However, UNICE continues to have major reservations with respect to the wisdom of putting forward objectives which do not have a sound foundation in risk management, which are not achievable in any foreseeable time frame and which could commit industry to enormous investment for many years to come for unclear benefits.

In this context, I am in full agreement with your views on the need to have transparency on the basis for particular standards and the health benefits which they bring. With specific regard to ozone it will be important to have transparency on the basis for the US 80 ppb standard versus the WHO-Europe 60 ppb guideline which is being discussed as the standard for the European Union. Combined with sound cost data, appropriate risk management and cost effectiveness decisions can then be made.

With respect to Mr Enthoven's letter of 29 October, UNICE will provide its response to Mr Perera and propose that a meeting of UNICE and DG XI experts takes place to further discuss the issues. This is preferable, I think, to continuing the debate via lengthy correspondence.

I look forward to further open, candid and constructive dialogue with the European Commission on this important topic of ozone and air quality standards.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Z. Tyszkiewicz

Secretary General

cc : European Commission

Mr Giovanni Ravasio, Director General, DG II

Mr Stefano Micossi, Director General, DG III

Mr Pablo Benavides Salas, Director General, DG XVII

Mr Guy Crauser, Director General, DG XXIII

Mr David Grant Lawrence, Acting Director, DG XI/D

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Mr Emile de Saeger, JRC, Environmental Institute, ISPRA