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# EEC proposes PCB supervisory bodies

THE EEC Commission has forwarded to the EEC Council a proposal aimed at establishing very stringent European rules regarding the release and circulation of polychlorinated biphenyls, which have been deposited in the environment since 1930. The materials are accumulated in organisms and are chronically toxic.

EEC Member States have no specific regulations concerning PCB's but France has prepared a bill on the problem, and notified the EEC Commission. However, the Commission considers it preferable to plan European legislation restricting the use of PCB's and banning disposal.

It considers that in Member States *ad hoc* bodies should be responsible for collection and regeneration or destructin of PCB's and that these standards should become compulsory within 24 months from notification of the Commission directive.

The directive proposes to control the sale of PCB's, under which they could only be used for analysis and research purposes. Exceptions to this restriction are uses in dielectric fluids for transformers or large power factor correction capacitators (less than or equal to 1kg); heat transfer fluids (other than in installations for processing of foods, drugs, feeds and veterinary products); hydraulic fluids in mining equipment; and small capacitators (less than 1kg and less than 42 per cent Cl).

## Non-organic Pollutants

A report in English on non-organic micropollutants has just been published by the EEC Commission. This four-volume document gives a detailed inventory of measurements carried out since 1968 to determine the extent of non-organic micropollutants in the environment. More than 77 000 measurements and samples were taken during this period.

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