

Voice of the People

Manuscript
EU and the environment
With answers from politicians at the Parliament
TVSYD, Brussels

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Translation

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Annette Stenfeldt Sørensen, laboratory technician, Denmark:

“We are working together with big countries such as France, Germany and Britain, and they have a lot of power. And we have the issue about the environment, where we have much higher standards than the rest of the European countries. And I’m afraid this will be damaged if the bigger countries get more power just because of the fact, that they have more inhabitants”

SIGN:

The consumption of electricity within the new member states has since 1990 rose with 5%. In the old countries – on the other hand – the consumption raised with 30% in the same period.

Claudes Turmes, Member of the Parliament, Luxembourg:

First we have to be aware, that in general the enlargement will raise the standards regarding the environment in almost all countries within the EU. Fortunately we have some countries: Denmark, Sweden...which are frontrunners. But water quality, air quality will be much better through the enlargement

Carsten Bojesen, Denmark:

„How will they rectify the imbalance between the work with the environment in the new and old countries? Because it’s in the old countries you have a lot of the problems. And how about getting the level up in the old countries?”

SIGN:

2 out of 3 power stations in the new countries are using coal for their production. In the old countries they only use coal in 1/3 of the power stations. The figures are falling for all 25 EU countries

Claudes Turmes, Member of the Parliament, Luxembourg:

The biggest risk is that some big companies will get to much influence in Brussels and within the national governments. My experiences after having thought a lot about energy and having tried to get nuclear energy out of business and having tried to promote alternative energy sources, the big co-operators have too much influence special through national governments. So what we need is well-informed citizens, well informed medias, well informed members of parliament, who defence the general interests and not the interest of big companies

Anne Sofie Sørensen, Denmark:

”The European Union has for a long time also been discussing other issues than economy. Therefore it would be a natural thing to ask, what areas about the environment, they are going to fight for?”

SIGN:

Germany recycles 79% of the packing. In Spain only 17% of the packing is being recycled

Claudes Turmes, Member of the Parliament, Luxembourg:

The biggest problem we have about the environment today, is that our energy policies, our transport policies, our industrial policies are not enough integrated into our policies. In that field normally it's difficult to find national solutions. There is too much lorry transport – let's say from Germany to Scandinavia. Denmark cannot do anything to have fewer lorries on the streets. We need European efforts, and of course we must have efforts to have the environment as top priority in the European Parliament