

Environment

What do I need to know before I start?

European environment policy dates back to the European Council held in Paris in 1972, where the Member States' Heads of Governments recognized the need for an environment policy at the European level. The 1987 Single European Act included environmental provisions, providing the first legal basis for a common environment policy. The Community's engagement in environmental protection was strengthened by subsequent treaty revisions, and the environment became an official EU policy area with the Treaty of Maastricht (1993). Moreover, the Treaty of Amsterdam (1999) introduced the concept of integrating environmental protection into all EU sectoral policies, as a way to promote sustainable development.

Languages: Please be aware that although most documents available in our Archives are in French, English or German, some may be in other EU languages. In order to check the languages used in a fond, please refer to our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may contain a few files in a language other than the ones listed in the description.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Related specifically to European environmental policy-building and policy-making, the fonds available at the HAEU are:

1) *EU institutions*

[Council of Ministers](#)

The fonds of the Council of Ministers include a specific section 'Politique de l'environnement'. As environmental policy is a rather new policy area in the EU, you can only find this specific section in the inventories from 1972 onwards (to 1974). As these are organized by years, you need to browse the sub-fonds of each separate year to access the specific section on environmental policy ([example](#) for the year 1972).

[Commission](#)

In the Commission's fonds, you will not find a specific section for the DG Environment, as it only existed from 1981 onwards. However, environmental issues were being discussed earlier and it could therefore be useful to look into the work of the [DG V Social Affairs](#), as well as in the sections on the [Secretariat-General](#) which also contains the minutes of the weekly Commission meetings since 1958, and those on the [Cabinets](#).

[European Parliament](#)

The Parliament's fonds include two sections '[Commission de l'environnement, de la santé publique et de la protection des consommateurs](#)' and '[Commission de l'environnement, de la santé publique et de la protection des consommateurs](#)', which include respectively the proceedings and the reports of the parliamentary committee for the environment, public health and consumer protection, during the Parliament's first legislature (1979-1984), second legislature (1984 – 1989) and third legislature (1989 – 1994).

In the collection of Press Cuttings (CPPE), you will find a specific section related to "[Environnement](#)" with a selection of articles regarding this topic.

[European Court of Auditors](#)

It may be interesting to consult both the sub-fonds: reports – including annual reports (1977-1997), special reports (1978-1991), opinions (1977-1997) – and internal documents – including working documents (1977-1994), information documents (1977-1994) and audit groups (1982-1997). The documents you will find there deal with environment, environmental protection and the [European Environment Agency](#).

[European Investment Bank](#)

You might find it interesting to consult the '[projets](#)', '[Aides, dons et subsides exceptionnels](#)' and [publications 'sub-fonds'](#), where you can find documents dealing with environment, EIB financial interventions in the water and renewable energies sectors, protection of the environment in East and Central Europe, as well as specific files about the [Programme pour l'environnement dans la Méditerranée \(PEM/PM\)](#), [Environnement Méditerranée - Programme d'assistance technique pour la protection de l'environnement méditerranéen \(METAP\)](#).

[Economic and Social Committee](#)

Similarly to the fonds of the Council of Ministers, the inventory does not include a specific section for environment in the earlier years, considering that environmental policy did not develop before the 1970s. However, for the year 1972, you will find a specific section related to a sub-committee '[Sous-comité Environnement](#)', and for the following years from 1973 onwards, you will find a specific section '*Section spécialisée pour l'environnement, la santé publique et la*

consommation'. This fonds being organized by years, you need to browse the fonds of each separate year to access the specific section on environment ([example](#) for the year 1973).

2) *Corporate bodies*

[Ligue européenne de coopération économique \(LECE\)](#)

The fonds of the LECE include a section '[Environnement](#)' related to the work of the committee for environment and addressing environmental issues in relation to the economy and the common agricultural policy.

[Political Groups of the European Parliament](#)

The [fonds of EPP Group \(PPE\)](#) include a section for the Standing working group on Environment, public health and consumer policy. You will find Minutes of the committee's meetings and Plenary notes for 1999 to 2004.

3) *Private deposits*

[Emile Noel](#)

In his private fonds, you can find a specific section related to the [environment](#), but also his notes on the European Council and Commission's meetings, as well as documents related to the [work of the different DGs](#) of the Commission (including environment), during his time as Secretary-General.

[Robert Hull](#)

Hull's private fonds address his role in developing European environment policy in the section '[Environment Policy](#)', as he was a member of the Environment Advisory Council and later became the Head of Division for Policy Coordination, responsible for the integration of environment into other policies and for the development of action programmes for the environment.

4) *Oral History*

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise of numerous interviews of European politicians and officials, including important figures and officials active in the

development of environmental policies at the European level. Below, you can find a list of persons interviewed who addressed the topic of environment at the European level.

[Abate, Antonio and Waegenbaur, Rolf](#)

[Atkinson, Harry](#)

[Bourdeau, Philippe](#)

[Brusasco-Mackenzie, Margaret](#)

[Carpentier, Michel](#)

[Chevallard, Giancarlo](#)

[Contzen, Jean-Pierre](#)

[Day, Catherine](#)

[Di Carpegna, Ranieri](#)

[Díez De Rivera Icaza, Carmen](#)

[Fouere, Erwan](#)

[Hoeck, Fernand Van](#)

[Johnson, Stanley](#)

[Junger, Jean-Marie](#)

[Krämer, Ludwig](#)

[Moltke, Heinrich Von](#)

[Moussis, Nicolas](#)

[Pflimlin, Pierre](#)

[Pleinevaux, Claude](#)

[Rocca, Gianfranco](#)

[Rohrsted, Tue](#)

[Stief-Tauch, Peter](#)

[Verstrynge, Jean-Francois](#)