

NEWS

Acid Rain

4/82

COMINGOR NOT?

It's only a few weeks left until the 1982 Stockholm Conference on Acidification of the Environment will begin. Below you'll find the names of the delegates to the Ministerial meeting in the end of June.

Austria

Bundesminister Kurt Steyrer
Sektionschef Dr. Herb J. Pindur
Oberrat Dr. Ernst Bobek
Frau Renate Marschalek

Belgium

Firmin Aerts

Bulgaria

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Canada

John Roberts

Czechoslovakia

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Greece

Minister of the Environment Antonis Tritsis

Hungary

Dr. György Gonda
Mrs. Agnes Sasvari

Ireland

Minister for the Environment Raphael P Burke

Italy

Director General Luigi Giennico

Luxemburg

Ingénieur-Inspector Théo Weber

1982

Denmark

Minister of the Environment Erik Holst

Federal Republic of Germany

Undersecretary of State Dr. Hartkopf

Finland

Minister of Interior Matti Ahde
Kari Pekkonen
Olli Ojala
Satu Nurmi
Ulla-Maria Tainio
Antti Kulmala

France

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German Democratic Republic

Minister of the Environment
Reichelt or Guido Thoms

Turkey

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United Kingdom

Mr. Shaw

USA

Assistant Administrator of EPA for Air, Noise and
Radiation Kathleen Bennett

USSR

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Yugoslavia

-

UNEP

Executive Director Mostafa K. Tolba

State Secretary Mrs. J.J. Lambers-Hacquebard

Norway

Minister for the Environment Frogn Sellaeg

Poland

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Portugal

Minister for the Environment Riberio Teles

Romania

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Spain

Ramiro Puig

Switzerland

Minister of Interior Hans Hürlimann

WMO

Secretary-General A.C. Wiin-Nielsen

OECD

Director James MacNeill

EEC

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WHO

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ECE

Executive Secretary Janez Stanovnik

SWEDISH TV AND RADIO PROGRAMMES ON ACID RAIN

- * Two 1-hour programmes on acidification on Swedish television
- * A programme comparing acidification in Scandinavia and North America
- * An increased interest on the Continent in information about acid rain

We present below the content of a number of projects by Swedish radio and television designed to create a public opinion on the subject of acidification and other environment problems. In the long run, it is possible that these programmes will also be broadcast in other countries.

Sweden's TV 2 will be broadcasting on 14 and 21 June -
which is to say at the time of the Stockholm meeting -

two 1-hour programmes. The first of these will be entitled "The Invisible Enemy".

"We are portraying long-distance air pollutants as a threat to our territory - but a threat against which our defence is powerless," says producer Bo Landin (former IYF chairman).

"The first programme will include sequences from the West German coal industry, and from dying German forests. We travel around acidified areas in the United States and Canada, and show the problems arising there with the drinking-water. Acid water is washing the lead from the waterpipes, and producing lead contents far above what is permitted."

The title of the second programme is taken from Rachel Carson's classic work "Silent Spring", and emphasises the threat acidification presents to natural eco-systems.

Bo Landin continues: "We are devoting considerable space to the effects of acidification on the forests - which is a controversial question - and to the leaching out of metals. We are particularly focussing on aluminium."

"We are also trying to include the most recent developments and findings, for example the correlation between acidification and the leaching of nitrogen into the sea."

The material for this second programme is taken mainly from Western Sweden, and it includes sequences taken from the air, beneath the water surface, and through the microscope.

TV 2's "Facts" Division, which is producing these two programmes, has high hopes that they will also be broadcast for British viewers this autumn. The BBC has shown a certain interest in acquiring them, although no agreement has yet been signed. The alternative is that the BBC will send a team of reporters to Scandinavia to shoot its own programmes on the same theme.

A further Swedish television project dealing with acidification is still at the planning stage. Swedish Television is currently negotiating with Ontario Educational Television in Canada with a view to a joint production, comparing the situation in the two countries.

"One idea we have is that a Canadian producer would then be responsible for the section on Sweden, so that the problems would be presented rather more from the outside, " says Ake Backlund, who will be the Swedish producer for this programme.

If plans work out, the programme will be ready for broadcasting sometime in the spring of 1983.

The interest in acid problems shown by television viewers on the European Continent has increased. Evidence of this is a programme recorded in Norway by Belgian television, which has been broadcast so far in five Central European countries, and may also be sold to still more countries.

The Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature (NNF) played an active role in getting this programme produced. It succeeded in obtaining a grant of Nkr 30,000 towards the production from the Environment Ministry, and contributed further money of its own.

"We set up a suitable travel schedule for the Belgian TV producer, so that he could study acidification from various aspects. We also provided a well-informed guide, who accompanied the team the whole time it was in Norway," says NNF Information Officer Syliv Struksnes.

This programme will probably not be screened for television viewers in Scandinavia, since it approaches acidification at too elementary a level, presenting facts and situations that are already well-known here.

Swedish Radio, finally, will be dealing with acidification in the Environment Division's programme "Nitrogen to the death?", which will be broadcast on 8 June.

Peter Palmkvist, Group 5