

THE RT HON JOHN WAKEHAM MP



Department of Energy
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Prime Minister

Content with the
terms of the PQ answer?
Also note ⊗ below.

Caroline Slocock
PS/Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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Yes ✓
29

AS
29/11

29 November 1989

Just Caroline

CONTROL MEASURES FOR ENERGY RELATED GAS EMISSIONS

Thank you for your letter of ²⁷ November. I attach a revised PQ answer which incorporated the suggestions made by the Prime Minister. It is our intention to release this tomorrow.

⊗ | The Prime Minister asked about the position of other countries submissions. We understand that probably five or six of the OECD countries are in a similar position to us. The less developed countries, including China, are not. We shall obtain more information at an experts' meeting which is to be held early next month and I shall let you have a further note then.

I am copying this letter to Richard Gozney (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Duncan Sparkes (HM Treasury), Stephen Williams (Welsh Office), Rosalind Cole (Department of Trade and Industry), Uriel Jamieson (Scottish Office), Roy Griffins (Department of Transport), Alan Ring (Department of the Environment), Stephen Lambert (MAFF) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours
David

DAVID MURPHY
Private Secretary



DRAFT QUESTION

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy what is the status of the report that his Department is preparing on possible future UK greenhouse gas emissions for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER (as modified in light of PM's suggestion)

I am pleased to tell you that the study entitled "An Evaluation of Energy Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Measures to Ameliorate Them" for the Energy and Industry subgroup of the Response Strategies Working Group of the UNEP/WMO Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is now ready and has been sent to the IPCC. The UK along with certain other countries volunteered to submit such urgent studies in order to assist the subgroup in its work. The aim of the studies is to illustrate, from the national perspectives of participating countries, the practical technical options and their possible costs, which may be available to curtail emissions of the "greenhouse" gases from the many energy related activities of society.

Of necessity, the study has to consider the size of future emissions of the greenhouse gases and the shape of the then energy system, as background against which the technical measures can be analysed. Such scenarios of future emissions, being very dependent on the input assumptions, are only intended to provide a framework for assessing the options. They are not predictions of the future.

Treasury addition
30/4

It is clear that the UK is responsible for only a fraction (approximately 3%) of the World's CO2 emissions and that this is likely to decline proportionately in the future. Therefore tackling the problem of climate change needs truly international action, as all recent studies of the subject (including the recent valuable contribution from the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology) have stressed. That is why it is important for all countries to concentrate their efforts on the work of the IPCC. Once its advice is available, it will be for the international community to decide what measures should be taken, and how best individual countries can contribute to the global response.

I have today placed a copy of the study report in the Library of the House.

Similarly the impact of any technical option is uncertain and since each option in the paper has been considered it would be wrong to draw any conclusion from any combination of them.

ENV AFFAIRS: AcidRain PT12

