-PRESS RELEASE-

SUCCESSFUL FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE CLEEN NETWORK IN ATHENS

On 25-26 May 2000, the first conference of the CLEEN (Chemicals Legislation European Enforcement Network) was organised in Athens, Greece. This network has the goal to co-ordinate and improve enforcement of EU chemicals legislation. Representatives of inspectorates, customs authorities and policy departments of the EU Member States and Norway, the European Commission and as an observer the United States EPA were present in Greece.
Agreement was reached on a programme for CLEEN. Strategy, priorities and concrete enforcement projects for the coming two years were decided upon.
The first two projects that are currently being organised under the name of CLEEN are EuroCad (on the Cadmium Directive 91/338/EEC) and EurOzone (on the new Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation to be expected in October 2000, which will replace Regulation (EC) 3093/94). The first conference of EurOzone and the second of EuroCad were also organised in Athens combined with the CLEEN meeting.
The combined conference was organised by the Netherlands Inspectorate for the Environment in close co-operation with the Greek General Chemical State Laboratory.

In Europe, many chemical substances are being produced, imported and used. Chemical industry and traders all over Europe have to comply to EU chemical legislation. This legislation aims to protect people and the environment from the adverse effect of chemicals.

The participants recognise the importance of co-ordinated enforcement of EU chemical legislation. In the last decade, a range of European enforcement projects on several chemicals Directives and Regulations were organised. Two projects focused on the Dangerous Substances Directive, and there was one project on the Existing Substances Regulation 793/93. Almost all EU Member States participated in each of these projects, as well as Norway. Co-ordinated inspections were carried out in these projects by inspectorates in all countries. Participants met during conferences to discuss the results of these actions.

The project approach proved to be successful. The Member States have gained positive results with company inspections. They gained experience in these projects on how to enforce, developed insight in the rate of non-compliance and took action where necessary.
As a result of the European projects, a European enforcement network was established in 1999. This network is called CLEEN. It has the goal to co-ordinate European enforcement activities, and initiate concrete projects. CLEEN will serve as a forum in which experiences and information will continue to be exchanged between participating countries.

In the framework of the first CLEEN conference, conferences on EuroCad and EurOzone were organised in Athens.

During the EuroCad conference, organized on 22-23 May, agreement was reached between participating countries on new co-ordinated enforcement actions on Cadmium regulations. In the coming period, inspectorates of involved countries will carry out co-ordinated actions on themes such as import, inspections and general information exchange. Custom authorities will be involved in some of the enforcement actions. Almost all EU Member States and Norway were represented, as well as the European Commission.

The first EurOzone conference took place on 24-25 May. As in EuroCad, almost all EU Member States and Norway were represented, as well as the European Commission. With this conference, the orientation phase of the project was rounded off, and agreement on further activities within the framework of EurOzone was reached. After a preparation phase, ending in January 2001, co-ordinated enforcement activities will be carried out, focusing on leakages from cooling installations and safe removal and destruction of ozone depleting substances and on illegal trade of ozone depleting substances.

The results of enforcement actions in the framework of EuroCad and EurOzone will be discussed and evaluated during a second CLEEN conference, scheduled in September 2001.