



Brussels, June 24th, 2002

Mr Romano PRODI
President of the European Commission
European Commission
1049 Brussels

Coherence of EU product related environmental policy

President,

Orgalime represents the mechanical, electrical, electronic and metal working industries of 21 European countries. Its 31 member federations represent over 100 000 companies of all sizes. With production valued at 1200 billion euros in 2001, and employing 7.5 million people, the engineering industry is the largest industrial sector.

Orgalime has for a number of years been requesting the Commission to adopt a more global approach to dealing with environmental matters, rather than an issue by issue approach, which inevitably interferes with the technological processes, innovation capacity and competitiveness of companies.

It is for this reason that we felt the Green Paper on IPP might have a potential to provide coherence in tracing the path of future environmental policy of the European Union. In this context, we have also been expecting that the announced White Paper on this policy approach will take into consideration industry's concerns.

We stress that our industry has already made significant efforts both at a national and sectoral level to improve the environmental performance of our products. We are of course continuing along this path. We do believe that a concerted effort between public authorities and associations, such as Orgalime, is needed to communicate the vision of product related environmental policy and how companies, in particular SMEs, should take into account environmental concerns throughout the life cycle of a product.

In the meantime, however, we are becoming increasingly concerned by the number of what we see as incoherent initiatives coming from different Directorates General. This leads us to question the Commission's commitment to developing a well co-ordinated long-term approach towards environmental policy in the framework of sustainable development.

We would, therefore, appreciate the possibility of discussing this issue with you in the near future.

Similar requests have been addressed to Commissioners Wallström, Liikanen and de Palacio.

We thank you in advance and are looking forward to meeting you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Martine Clément
Orgalime President

Cc: Mr O'Sullivan; Mrs Groebner; Mr Deffaa