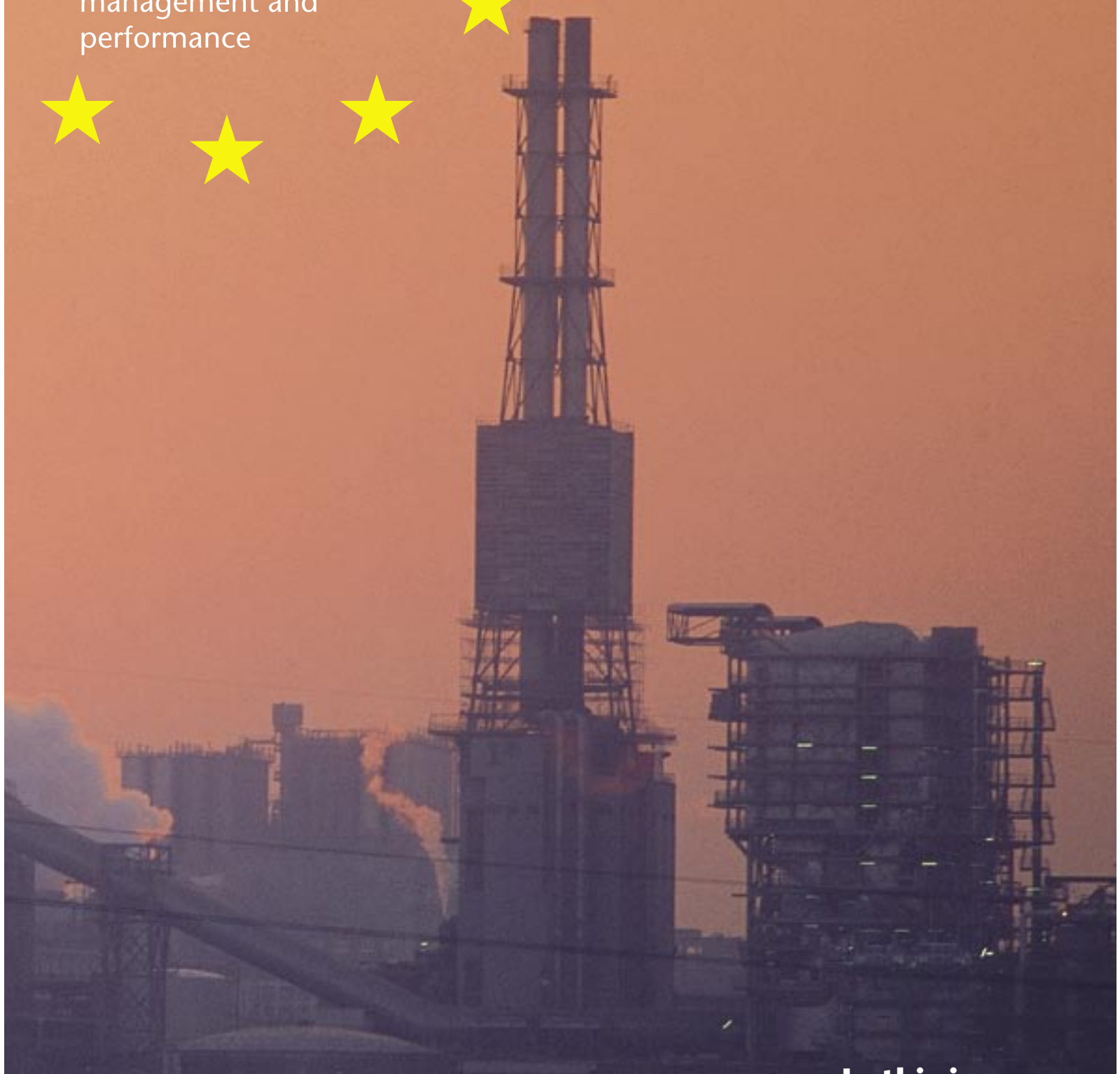


remas

linking environmental
management and
performance

Issue 6 • 2004



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with help and support
of the LIFE programme

What is remas?

Remas is an ambitious and far-reaching three-year European study into the benefits of environmental management systems (EMS) in the context of regulation. The €2million project is co-financed by the LIFE Environment Fund, the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment and the Environmental Protection Agency (in Ireland).

By studying the performance of industrial sites and comparing those sites that have robust EMS, with those that have not, we will identify which factors are most valuable for the regulator. After all the data has been collated, measured and analysed, we will cascade our findings to key EU stakeholders. remas is committed to promoting the highest standards of environmental management practice and effective regulatory policy throughout Europe ... and, potentially, the world.



with help and support of the LIFE programme

Meet the team

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“ Hello and welcome to issue 6 of the remas newsletter. I am delighted to be able to share with you some significant progress in the project. We now have over 300 sites registered, including a fair mix of industry sectors and EMS engagement (although representation in Germany and Scandanavia could be improved). The focus for everyone involved in remas now is to make sure that we move these companies on through the process to the data registration phase. To help us meet these targets the remas team is in expansion mode, as we have recruited extra staff to provide more communication and technical skills to help companies complete the survey as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

You will note an increased international flavour running throughout this issue as we continue on our mission to spread the remas message throughout Europe. You can read about how a site in Belgium is benefiting from their association with remas. Reflecting this European outreach we have also recruited additional native French, Spanish and Italian speakers to provide multi-lingual frontline support.

In speaking to many companies who are already working with us, you have told us that you would value feedback on other companies' environmental management and performance and the opportunity to share best practice. In this issue we speak to environmental managers from companies throughout the UK and find out their experiences to date. Information and knowledge sharing remains at the very core of the remas objectives and we hope to act as a catalyst in this process.

Continuing to improve the ways in which we communicate and support companies, we have been very busy behind the scenes revamping the remas website. Many thanks to those of you who have taken the time to feed back to us where we can deliver information to you in a more constructive way or where you have experienced technical problems. Our helpful guidance introductory section is now available in a number of languages, we have redesigned the questionnaire for easier use and our reporting section is now live. This will enable companies to go on line and view their remas score against other industry benchmarks. Your continued dialogue with us is vital. We intend to leave the website as a legacy long after the remas project is ended and we need to know that the information it contains is relevant, meaningful and readily accessible.

Please keep talking to us. If you have any comments or suggestions for improvement, please email me at mcheesbrough@remas.info

Martyn Cheesbrough

Martyn Cheesbrough
remas Project Manager



Silicone manufacturing doesn't cost the earth



Last year innovative silicone manufacturer Dow Corning scooped a top environment award for their EMS. The Institute of Chemical Engineers awarded the prestigious BOC trophy to Dow Corning for demonstrating significant financial and environmental benefits from their environmental programmes, proving in every sense that their manufacturing process doesn't cost the earth. We spoke to Environmental Team Leader, Mike Squire about the benefits of EMS to the company and their involvement with remas.



Established in 1943, Dow Corning is a global leader in silicon- based technology and innovation, offering more than 7,000 products and services to 25,000 customers worldwide. Silicone applications are used in virtually every major industry, from electronics and personal care to automotive and textiles.

Dow Corning's main manufacturing site in the UK based in Barry, South Wales was one of the first companies to gain ISO14001 certification in 1998. Mike Squire explains that having a formal EMS in place has brought tremendous tangible benefits to the company.

“ Three years ago we started to publish the financial benefits we were gaining from having an EMS in place and over this period we have been able to demonstrate actual cost savings in excess of £8 million. ”

“With an audit every six months by the BSI we are able to demonstrate clear patterns of continuous improvement. We have a network of environmental coordinators in place located throughout the site, spreading the environmental message to all 600 employees. Three years ago we started to publish the financial benefits we were gaining from having an EMS in place and over this period we have been able to demonstrate actual cost savings in excess of £8 million. These are not one-

off achievements but sustained savings and reduced environmental impact that will be realised every year.”

It is this very real impact on the company's bottom line that gained Dow Corning the BOC environment award in 2003. This, in turn, prompted the company to become involved with the remas project.

“Although we already undertake benchmarking with other companies like BP and Solutia,” said Mike “remas offered us the opportunity to compare our environmental management system and performance on a much wider stage.” Mike was also keen to offer his endorsement for the development of the remas criteria – those parts of an EMS that are considered key to improving environmental performance.

“The key to an effective EMS lies in understanding the significance of your environmental impacts, addressing them and making improvements.”

www.dowcorning.com

Working with Borden Chemicals



The remas project has invited participation from companies with robust EMS systems and companies with no formal system in place, promising an easy on line registration process. But completing the remas survey has not been so easy. Steven Holland, Safety and Quality Environmental Co-ordinator at Borden Chemical's, Cowie site shared his experiences.



Helping Borden Chemicals complete the Survey

Borden Chemical is a leading supplier of high-performance resins, adhesives and coatings to a broad range of industries, with sites throughout the world. The UK headquarters in Barry, Wales is ISO14001 certified, but the Cowie site does not have a formal EMS in place, although it does operate within the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) directive. Borden Cowie were encouraged to fly the remas flag by their local Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) inspector, John Burns and subsequently went on-line to register on the remas website.

"Initially I must admit I found the questionnaire time consuming and difficult to complete," admitted Steven. "Difficulties arose in selecting environmental performance indicators where our site activities are more diverse than just one process and one product. This made it hard to select an appropriate and meaningful indicator."

Jeremy Stephens, policy advisor to the remas project was able to help Steven resolve his initial problems and as a result of Borden's feedback, Jeremy has been able

to fine tune the survey completion process for future companies, as he explains.

"I sent Steven a 'Word' version of the environmental performance indicators and talked him through the selection process. I have now made some indicators mandatory where an IPPC BREF note benchmark is present. Others I have made optional to alleviate this problem in the future. A site does not have to provide an indicator where it is identified as 'optional' on the 'Word' document. We will also be updating the online version to read the same."

Steven has some useful words of encouragement to any other companies who may experience initial teething problems in signing up to remas.

"You are faced with a lot of information at the start, but don't be put off and give up if you are struggling. Don't be afraid to contact the remas team for expert advice and back up."

“ You are faced with a lot of information at the start, but don't be put off and give up if you are struggling. Don't be afraid to contact the remas team for expert advice and back up. ”

So what does the Borden Cowie site hope to gain from being part of remas?

"remas will allow us to see just how we measure up in terms of environmental performance as a site currently without a formal EMS, as well as viewing how effective a formal EMS really is. The European perspective is also very important to us too as there are a number of similar sites in Europe."

Debating the remas criteria

The recent IEMA annual conference held in the UK in May provided the forum for an intensive and interactive session designed to raise awareness of and seek input into the remas project.

Led by the project's manager Martyn Cheesbrough, certifiers and representatives from industry were asked for their understanding of the effectiveness of a formal environmental management system. They were also invited to comment on those parts of an environmental management system that remas believe lead to improved performance.

"We discussed each of the criteria in turn, debating whether these felt about right, were they concerned with the right area or whether they need a complete overhaul," said Martyn.

Although only 16% of the people attending had heard about remas, 48% believed that the remas data is important. Speaking about EMS generally, an overwhelming 82% of delegates believe that an EMS should lead to improved performance, whilst slightly less people, 73%, agree that EMS should support regulatory activity.



Commenting on the overall success of the workshop, Martyn said, "I believe the event was extremely good as a model and we received both very positive feedback and also constructive criticism. Moving on from this I would be very interested to find out if these practical sessions are useful to companies and whether people would like us to host further similar events in the future."

To register your feedback or to get involved further in the debate log on to the web discussion forum at www.remas.info



Which parts of an Environmental Management System (EMS) do companies need to focus on to improve environmental performance?

- Compliance – occurs when environmental legislative requirements are met. An EMS should lead to a site achieving and maintaining compliance
- Environmental aspects and controls – checks that should be carried out to make sure a company fully considers its environmental aspects and manages any potential impacts within its EMS. The site should be able to show the following:
 - evidence of environmental improvement – are there validated documents showing performance data on a yearly basis?
 - processes – have documents been reviewed and guidance implemented?
 - monitoring – is monitoring of emissions being carried out? What are the minimum frequencies, accuracy and level of monitoring?
 - training of operators – do all staff and contractors understand operating procedures and environmental impacts?
 - emergency provisions – is there an emergency plan and is it implemented in practice?
 - maintenance of equipment – does a maintenance plan exist?
 - document retention – are documents kept for at least five years?
- Accreditation – a certification body is authorised or accredited to assess a management system against a particular standard – is your certifier accredited?

These are being reviewed this summer. We are speaking with regulators, certifiers and assessors, together with industry representatives to make sure the criteria are effective and workable and help sites produce a more robust EMS for their company.

From September onward we will be asking volunteer sites to adopt these principles and working with these companies to demonstrate their worth. We would very much welcome your input and comments.

To join the debate please log on to our web discussion forum at www.remas.info

Remas ask companies to join up in the Czech Republic

Největší evropská studie zkoumající systémy environmentálního řízení

Pavel Ruzicka

Remas je významným celoevropským projektem zabývajícím se vztahem systémů environmentálního řízení (EMS) k environmentálnímu profilu, a to především v souvislosti s otázkami regulace v oblasti ochrany životního prostředí. Mezi základní cíle projektu patří: (i) vytipovat prvky EMS, které zajistí podniku dobrý environmentální profil; (ii) zprostředkovat srovnání podniků z celé Evropy a (iii) navrhnout opatření pro odstranění duplicit v rámci environmentálních kontrol (ze strany ověřovatelů a státních orgánů).

Zavádění systémů environmentálního řízení přináší podnikům mnohé výhody. Především jim umožňuje jednoduchým způsobem monitorovat a lépe řídit své environmentální dopady, a tak zlepšovat environmentální profil podniku. EMS též poskytuje dobrou půdu pro identifikaci a dodržování legislativních požadavků ochrany životního prostředí, řízení rizik či celkové zlepšení vnitropodnikového řízení a dokumentace.

Projekt remas se však nezabývá pouze zhodnocením přínosů EMS pro podnikovou sféru, nýbrž se snaží také identifikovat nejvýznamnější přínosy pro státní orgány, zejména pro orgány zabývající se regulací v oblasti ochrany životního prostředí (v ČR reprezentované Českou inspekcí životního prostředí).

První fáze projektu, jež právě probíhá, se sestává z rozsáhlého dotazníkového šetření mezi podniky z celé Evropy, reprezentujícími různá ekonomická odvětví. Hlavním cílem této fáze je prokázat vzájemný vztah mezi environmentálním řízením podniku a zlepšováním jeho environmentálního profilu. Následně dojde k identifikaci

těch prvků EMS, které environmentální profil nejvíce ovlivňují a se kterými jsou spojeny největší přínosy – jak pro podnik, tak pro státní orgány. Na základě tohoto zhodnocení budou nalezeny možnosti, jak podnikům s kvalitním environmentálním řízením ulehčit v otázkách státní regulace. Jinak řečeno: jak odstranit duplicitu v rámci environmentálních kontrol (či auditů), prováděných environmentálními ověřovateli a certifikačními orgány na jedné a státními orgány na druhé straně.

Projekt REMAS je rozvíjen ve spolupráci environmentálních agentur Velké Británie, Skotska a Irska a organizace IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment). Projekt je spolufinancován z evropského fondu životního prostředí LIFE a aktivně jej podporuje síť IMPEL (Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law) sdružující zástupce regulačních orgánů pro oblast ochrany životního prostředí ze všech členských států Evropské unie.

Projektu se mohou účastnit jak podniky se zavedeným EMS, tak podniky, které žádný systém implementovan nemají. Vítána je spolupráce podniků, jež podléhají regulaci podle směrnice IPPC. Účast v projektu je jednoduchá – stačí navštívit internetové stránky www.remas.info a vyplnit on-line dotazník, týkající se údajů o environmentálním profilu podniku a jeho systému řízení. Zúčastněné společnosti obdrží podrobnou benchmarkingovou zprávu, poskytující srovnání jejich podniku s ostatními podniky daného sektoru z celé Evropy. To jim umožní sdílet a získat informace o nejlepších praktikách (best practices) a vylepšit svůj profil a výkonnost.

Rockwool's EMS Experience

Rockwool, the UK's leading manufacturer of insulation materials, is proud to declare 'being green is in our nature'. Not only supplying environmentally friendly products, Rockwool is committed to reducing the environmental impact of the manufacture and delivery of its products. Rockwool's quality and environmental assurance manager is Janet Boast.

"As an organisation we understand that our local actions have a global impact and are committed to a socially, environmentally and economically responsible approach to our business."

Janet confirms that strong environmental messages pervade throughout the entire Rockwool Group, with a clear commitment from the company's leadership to produce an entirely 'green' culture. One of the ways in which Rockwool works to minimise the impact of its operations on the environment is by using the ISO14001 series of standards for environmental management and audit procedure. Rockwool gained certification to ISO14001 two years ago although it has been making improvements and running environmental management systems for many years.

"As a company we could already demonstrate a good environmental performance record, but gaining ISO certification was the icing on the cake for us," explained Janet.

When the chance to be involved in the remas project arose, Rockwool clearly seized the opportunity to network with others in the environmental arena.

Rockwool have completed the initial online questionnaire and have received a very good environmental management score. They are currently waiting for their environmental performance data to be quality assured.

Asked what Rockwool hoped to gain by being part of the remas project, Janet replied, "We very much welcome the opportunity to receive good advice and learn best practice techniques from other companies."

Electrabel joins Remas

Electrabel, producteur d'énergie et leader au Benelux, participe au projet Remas

Electrabel est un site belge participant au projet remas. Nous avons interviewé Mr Claude Lamine (Chef du Service Environnement) et nous l'avons interrogé sur les raisons qui ont poussé un site tel qu'Electrabel à prendre part à ce projet.



valeurs d'ELECTRABEL qui sont partagées par tous les acteurs qui interviennent sur le site de Tihange. Nous produisons de manière performante une énergie propre et respectueuse de l'environnement.

Pour les années à venir et dans la logique de notre politique de développement durable, nous nous appliquons à analyser nos points faibles pour les transformer en sources de progrès. En partageant de façon équitable nos objectifs environnementaux avec nos partenaires internes et externes, notre activité pourra continuer à se distinguer positivement en matière d'environnement et de développement économique et social."

It's been EMAS registered since 2001. Everyone within the company contributes to make this environmental management system more dynamic. It is part of Electrabel's culture and values. The energy it produces is safe for the environment.

3. Qu'est-ce qui vous a poussé à participer au projet remas et qu'en attendez-vous?

Nous participons à ce projet afin de promouvoir EMAS en Europe et échanger le plus possible d'informations visant à améliorer notre système de management en partageant l'information avec d'autres. L'efficacité environnementale de nos entreprises n'en sera que meilleure. Il faudra également faire preuve d'imagination pour trouver encore des pistes d'amélioration !

They are participating in remas to promote EMAS in Europe and to exchange as much information as possible with others so that they can further improve their management system.

1. Pourriez-vous nous donner une présentation de votre site?

"la Centrale Nucléaire de Tihange fait partie intégrante du parc de production électrique d'Electrabel, entreprise européenne d'énergie, leader du marché Benelux appartenant au groupe de tête des énergéticiens européens. La Centrale Nucléaire de Tihange a une puissance électrique nette de 3000 MW; nous produisons de ce fait environ 30% de l'énergie électrique nécessaire à l'alimentation de la Belgique sans produire de gaz à effet de serre."

The Nuclear Power Station of Tihange is part of the Electricity producing park of Electrabel. It is an energy producer and leader on the Benelux market. This station produces electric power of 3000 MW.

2. Pourriez-vous nous donner plus d'information quant à votre système de management environnemental à Electrabel ?

"Nous sommes EMAS depuis 2001. Aujourd'hui, notre système de management environnemental acquiert de plus en plus de maturité grâce à la contribution dynamique de chacun dans l'entreprise. Les moyens mis en place sont importants et les résultats obtenus encourageants. La préservation de notre cadre de vie fait partie intégrante de la culture et des

Facts & Figures

Belgium (Belgique/Belgie)

Population	10.2 million
Area	30,158 km ²
EC Membership	Founding member

Political System
Federal Parliamentary Democracy under a Constitutional Monarch

Capital City Brussels (Bruxelles/Brussel)

Currency Euro

Official Languages French, Flemish and German

Industries: Engineering and metal products, motor vehicle assembly, processed food and beverages, chemicals, basic metals, textiles, glass, petroleum and coal.

Environment Agencies: Federal Department of the Environment
www.environment@health.fgov.be
Note – Environmental administration falls mainly under the auspices of regional governments.

The Regulators

EMAS registered companies/sites	18
ISO 14001 registered companies/sites	255

Environment – current issues:
The environment is exposed to intense pressures from human activities: urbanisation, dense transportation network, industry, intense animal breeding and crop cultivation; air and water pollution also have repercussions for neighbouring countries.



“Sustainable development: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”


“**Our Common Future**” World Commission on Environment and Development report

“Failure to reverse trends that threaten future quality of life will steeply increase the costs to society or make those trends irreversible.”

European Heads of State and Government,
Gothenburg, 2001

“Our biggest challenge in this new century is to take an idea that seems abstract – sustainable development – and turn it into a reality for all the world’s people.”

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General



Next Issue

**Special feature on Spain
including interview with
Valero y Alarcon S.L.**

En nuestro próximo número se publicará un apartado especial sobre España. Incluirá la participación de algunas empresas adheridas al Proyecto Remas y opiniones de responsables en Organismos oficiales medioambientales.

www.remas.info