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EMULSIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Foreword

The 1992 United Nations Conference in Rio on the environment and sustainable development marked the beginning of global awareness that the environment of earth is at risk. Depletion of natural resources and global warming are the leading causes of the deterioration and disturbance to our ecosystems. The main causes are industry, agriculture and transport. This awareness was formally expressed in the Kyoto agreements of 1997 and in particular the commitment of the signatory states to reduce greenhouse effect gases to their level of 1990.

In the framework of its sustainable development policy, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) set the priority for the first ten years of the 21st century on two actions: limiting the impact of industries on climate change and optimising management of natural resources. The European Union has made sustainable development one of its major objectives. France has undertaken to define and set up a national strategy for sustainable development. The environment Charter has been adopted and appended to the French Constitution.