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## **THE SWEDISH NGO SECRETARIAT ON ACID RAIN**

The essential aim of the Swedish NGO Secretariat on Acid Rain is to promote awareness of the problems associated with air pollution, and thus, in part as a result of public pressure, to bring about the required reduction of the emissions of air pollutants. The eventual aim is to have those emissions brought down to levels – the so-called critical loads – that the environment can tolerate without suffering damage.

In furtherance of these aims, the secretariat operates as follows, by

- Keeping under observation political trends and scientific developments.
- Acting as an information centre, primarily for European environmentalist organizations, but also for the media, authorities, and researchers.
- Publishing a magazine, *Acid News*, which is issued four to five times a year and is distributed free of charge.
- Producing and distributing information material.
- Supporting environmentalist bodies in other countries by various means, both financial and other, in their work towards common ends.
- Acting as coordinator of the international activities, including lobbying, of European environmental organizations, as for instance in connection with meetings of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution.
- Participating in lobby and campaign activities in connection with development of EU legislation relating to air quality and climate change, as well as meetings of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The work of the secretariat is largely directed on the one hand towards central and eastern Europe (the accession countries, Russia and Ukraine), and on the other towards the European Union and its member countries. By emitting large amounts of sulphur and nitrogen compounds, all these countries add significantly to acid depositions over Sweden.

#### **AIR AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

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As regards the eastern European countries, activity mostly takes the form of supporting and cooperating with the local environmentalist movements. Since 1988, for instance, financial support has been given towards maintaining information projects on energy, transport and air pollution. All are run by local environmentalist organizations.

The secretariat was formed in 1982 with a board now comprising one representative from each of the following organizations:

- Friends of the Earth Sweden
- Swedish Anglers' National Association
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- Swedish Youth Association for Environmental Studies and Conservation
- World Wide Fund for Nature Sweden