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Dear David.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO BUSINESS IN EUROPE

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 31 July to Paul Channon.

In all of the policy areas in which this department is involved within the EEC we are continuing to maintain vigorous pressure for deregulatory objectives to be taken into consideration. Where proposed EC environmental protection measures are still under negotiation we are pushing for the minimum level of regulation consonant with the need to protect the environment. There are not, however any existing EC regulations which I would identify for inclusion in your current exercise. Directive 82/501/EEC (the so-called Seveso Directive) which we previously identified as burdensome has, as you will recall, since been amended to tighten its requirements, with the agreement of the UK.

This illustrates the inherent tension between deregulation and many environmental policy objectives; to be effective, environmental protection measures often require more regulation not less. Environmental protection measures should not, however, be viewed in a purely negative way for they not only protect our environment but, where the promotion of cleaner technology is involved, can stimulate certain sections of industry and create jobs, as was recognised at last year's European Council. Moreover, a positive approach to environmental protection which ensures that measures throughout the EC are coherent and consistent is of benefit to industry.

/ I am copying this letter to recipients of yours.

Young

Nicholas Ridley

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

Euro Poli Budget PT32

