

THE ENVIRONMENT (2004)

Pollution is one of the biggest problems of our time. The increasing prosperity of the rich countries and the continual increase of the population over the last hundred years have brought about large changes in the nature and the environment of the whole world. These changes are taking place at an increasing rate, cause inestimable damage and jeopardise future generations' quality of life more and more. In order to redress the situation, more is needed than a few ecological measures.

Since the ecological equilibrium is a planetary problem, measures must be applied on a world scale.

Mentalities therefore have to change radically. Life in society must evolve to allow the environment to heal and to become able to support our necessary activities in the future. **This is what is called durable development.** In the meantime, before mentalities have changed, and in order to avoid the worst, the environment must be treated as a “**rare commodity**” in economics. **In other words, a price based on durable development must be affixed to the use of raw materials, air, water, the earth and space.** A rational politics of the environment must be elaborated by the specialists in collaboration with the people concerned, i.e. the population. Vivant supports safeguard measures such as environment tax, energy tax, tax on CO₂ emissions and on traffic, levied according to the principle that the polluter pays. As far as possible, these levies and taxes will be integrated into the VAT system (STC).