"Imported" pollution

The problems caused by acid rain in Norway are an excellent example of the international nature of environmental problems and of the fact that pollution knows no boundaries. They also illustrate how impossible it is for one country alone to protect itself against such problems.

The Norwegian environment has been hard hit by pollution from other countries in the form of acid rain:

- More than 90 per cent of the acid rain affecting Norway originates abroad.
- Scientists can trace much of this back to individual countries.

In other words, thermal power stations in Eastern Europe and Britain and road traffic throughout Europe are slowly but surely killing fish and destroying the natural environment in Norway.

Emissions of SO2 in Europe have been substantially reduced. In Western Europe, emissions are almost 50 per cent lower now than in 1980, and in Europe as a whole, they have been reduced by more than 40 per cent. The reductions in emissions from Eastern Europe are mainly a result of economic decline followed by the closure of factories and reductions in energy production. In Western Europe, the reductions have generally been achieved by introducing new technology to clean up emissions. European emissions of NOX have not been reduced in the same period.

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**Countries responsible for the largest proportions of sulphur and NOx deposition in Norway.**

**Percentage of total.**

**Sulphur**

**NOx**
The figures for inputs of sulphur and NOx to Norway are means for the period 1985-93. The "unidentified" contribution consists of inputs from other parts of the world, mainly the USA. Source: EMEP/MSC-W Report 1/94.