



Croydon Astronomical Society

Chairman

John Murrell
17, Dalmeny Road,
Carshalton
Surrey,
England
SM5 4PW

Tel: Home 020 8647 5490
Work 020 7308 4154
Mobile 07887 625 722

Registered Charity Number 251560

30 January, 2003

EMAIL JohnMurrell@compuserve.com

APPEAL TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Croydon Astronomical Association

- Considering that the phenomenon of light pollution is by now a worldwide problem, and that it is particularly worrying within the European continent
- Considering the positive initiatives that have been promoted in Italy and other countries of the European Community aimed at the establishing specific rules that would limit this severe alteration of the night sky
- Considering that an earnest fight to the useless dispersion of light towards the sky would also elicit, as a consequence, undoubted advantages to the reduction of energetic waste – by the way also solicited by the Kyoto's Protocol to contain the greenhouse effect
- Considering that UNESCO has already established a Declaration for the Rights of Future Generations where it is specifically stated the right to the preservation of the sky in its intrinsic purity
- Considering that specific requests in this sense have been transmitted to all world governments during the Conventions in Venice (May 2002) and Lucerne (September 2002)

We appeal to the European Council

To vote a specific proposal so that the night sky will be declared and considered as environmental heritage which need to be preserved by distinct legal rules.

This project will allow present and future generations to keep studying, understanding and admiring the starry sky and all its related phenomena. By doing so, we will significantly reduce the energetic waste and thereby obtain a decrease in the shrinkage of our planet's natural resources and an improvement in the atmosphere conservation.

John H K Murrell

Fellow of The Royal Astronomical Society
Chairman – Croydon Astronomical Society