scientists and I have criticized this conclusion for a variety of reasons that are well summarized in last month's Federal Court decision concerning EPA's report on ETS (*1*); the decision notes how the agency disregarded the law, due process, its own guidelines, and internal dissent; used advisory committees populated by its own clients; selectively manipulated and ranked data; disregarded biases and confounders; improvised ad hoc methods of analysis; and flaunted statistical standards to reach the imaginary support of a preconceived position that the agency had publicized some years earlier. The transparent evidence of the Court's decision conveys a moral force that many find deeply uncomfortable, especially since EPA has a long record of weaving its own kind of science to fit favored policies (*2*).

If legitimate doubts about the Court's conclusions are harbored, it would be of value to open a debate about the facts.

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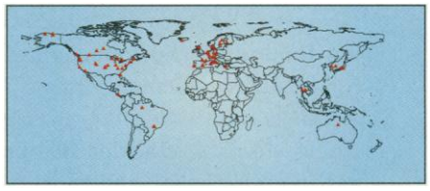
Estimating the CO_2 Uptake in Europe

In her informative and well-written article "New network aims to take the world's CO_2 [carbon dioxide] pulse," Jocelyn Kaiser (News Focus, 24 July, p. 506), reports "preliminary findings [indicating] that European forests absorb a net total of up to 0.28 petagrams of carbon a year—a third of the continents' industrial emissions." As the initiator and coordinator of the team effort aimed at estimating the net carbon dioxide uptake from European Union (EU) forests undertaken under the auspices of the Euroflux project (managed and funded by the European Commission's "Environment & Climate" Programme), which Kaiser cites, I offer five points of clarification. These five points entail major policy implications. First, the uptake estimate concerns the year 1997. Second, I compare the forest uptake figure to all anthropogenic emissions, rather than just to industrial emissions. Third, the estimate limits itself to forests within the confines of EU borders. Fourth, similarly, anthropogenic emissions refer to the EU, rather than to the European continent. Fifth, and finally, I presented our preliminary results at the Netflux meeting held in Montana (3 to 5 June 1998) as a pair of numbers, that is, 0.12 to 0.28 petagrams—between 10%



Global CO_2 monitoring network

and a third of EU anthropogenic emissions. I used a pair of numbers to highlight that such estimates involve unresolvable uncertainties.

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Big Spenders?

In his Policy forum "The scientific investment of nations" (*Science*'s Compass, 3 July, p. 49), Robert M. May concludes that "in countries with relatively high investment in defense R&D [research and development], public funding has fallen