Atmospheric pollution, CO_2 and greenhouse gas emissions: monitoring mechanism (amend. Decision 93/389/EEC)

1996/0192(SYN) - 16/06/1998 - Council position

The common position incorporates, in whole or in part, an important number of the European Parliament's amendments, which were incorporated in the Commission's amended proposal. There are no European Parliament amendments that the Commission rejected and the Council included in its common position. Technical substantive changes were introduced by the Council in the text of the common position as a consequence of the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol (on 11 December 1997): 1) Preamble: the preamble has been simplified, mainly by the deletion of 'whereas' clauses which referred mainly to the different phases in the process leading to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol and their replacement by a wording referring to the outcome of that process. A reference was also introduced to the possible future updating of the monitoring mechanism to reflect further decisions in the framework of the Kyoto Protocol; 2) Aims of the monitoring mechanism: the common position stipulates that the monitoring mechanism is designed not only to monitor the emissions in Member States but also aimed at evaluating progress towards meeting commitments in respect of these emissions; - national programmes: the modifications aim at taking into account the outcome of the Kyoto negotiations and in particular the requirements deriving from the Kyoto Protocol for the Community and its Member States. The monitoring mechanism as updated will, in fact, also contribute to the evaluation of progress made by the Community and its Member States towards fulfilling the UNFCCC and the Protocol's commitments. A clear distinction has been made between the requirements of the framework Convention and those deriving from the Kyoto Protocol; 3) National inventories and data reporting: - Member States now have until 31 December to submit to the Commission the annual data on their emissions, removal by sinks and projected emissions; - Member States must report on the most recent projected emissions by sources and removals by sinks of six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol for the period 2008-2012 and, as far as possible, for 2005; - the Commission must take further steps to promote the comparability and transparency of information provided by the Member States; - the Commission must forward to all the Member States by 1 March at the latest the inventories of emissions; 4) Evaluation of national programmes and of the state of emissions: - the deadline for forwarding by the Commission to other Member States of the national programmes received has been reduced to one month; - a reference has been added to the European Environment Agency which, if necessary, will assist in compiling the evaluation report to be presented by the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament; 5) Evaluation of progress: the actual and projected progress of Member States towards fulfilling the commitments under the United Nations framework convention and the Kyoto Protocol will be assessed every year. The decision will enter into force on 1 January 1999. Lastly, it should be noted that the common position provides for a regulatory committee (procedure IIIa) instead of a committee of an advisory nature (procedure I) as had been proposed by the European Parliament.