

Industrial pollution: reduction of emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC)

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The Economic and Social Committee supports the proposal for a directive which seeks to reduce emissions of VOC due to the use of organic solvents in certain processes and industrial installations, subject to the provisos set out below, which refer to the need for the European Commission to: - make an overall assessment of the combined effect of all these measures, in the various regions of the European Union. It may be that proposals are being drawn up which are not justified in cost-benefit terms, or else that additional measures are needed; - develop a uniform reduction methodology for each individual sector involved and strike a balance, in cost-benefit terms, when setting individual reduction levels for each sector; - provide sufficient detail about the criteria on which the definitions of minimum solvent use thresholds and emission levels for each sector are based; - take account of the economic cost which will, in some cases, be very high and the considerable risk of losing competitiveness, and possibly jobs;