End-of-life vehicles. ELV Directive

1997/0194(COD) - 11/01/2000

The committee adopted the recommendation for second reading (codecision procedure) by Karl-Heinz FLORENZ (EPP/ED, D) amending the Council's common position. The large number of amendments adopted by the committee included the provision that 'cherished' vehicles, meaning any historic vehicle or vehicle of value to collectors, should be exempted from the directive. An age for such vehicles was not given, as national regulations differed within the EU. The committee also proposed that the term 'dismantling manual' should be replaced by 'dismantling information', which should be made available in the form of manuals or by means of CD-ROM and online services. Manufacturers should also facilitate dismantling by using common component and material coding standards. One amendment stated that the Commission should take the necessary steps to ensure that components from end-of-life vehicles were reused only on condition that they did not give rise to any safety or environmental hazard. Other amendments sought to impose tougher regulations for heavy metals - for example, as from July 2000, the mercury contained in vehicles should be prevented from being shredded, disposed of as landfill or incinerated. The lead, cadmium and hexavalent chromium contained in vehicles should also not be disposed of in landfill sites. Lastly, the committee felt that the directive as applicable to new vehicles should enter into force not from 1 January 2001, as proposed by the Council, but 18 months after its publication in the Official Journal. It left the date of 1 January 2006 as applicable to existing cars (which had not necessarily been manufactured in a recycling-friendly way) unchanged.