Restriction of the use of petroleum products in power stations (repeal. direct. 75/405/EEC)

1996/0175(CNS) - 10/07/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: repeal of Directive 75/405/EEC concerning the restriction of the use of petroleum products in power stations. SUBSTANCE: this Directive was adopted in the 1970s in order to place an obligation on the Member States to require prior authorization by their authorities for the construction or conversion of oil-fired power stations. It was necessary at the time to limit oil imports and to improve security of supply in order to stop the proliferation of power stations burning petroleum products. The Commission proposes that this Directive be repealed since it believes it would no longer be very useful in remedying the risk to supplies. Repeal of the Directive would offer electricity generators and refiners greater flexibility and facilitate the possible return to operation of certain multi-fuel units (coal/oil, oil/gas or combinations with wood/peat) and help to make refineries more profitable, by creating markets for surplus heavy fuel oil.