

Assessment and management of environmental noise

2000/0194(COD) - 25/06/2002 - Final act

PURPOSE : to establish a common EU framework for the assessment and management of exposure to environmental noise. **COMMUNITY MEASURE** : Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. **CONTENT** : the aim of this Directive shall be to define a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise. To that end the following actions shall be implemented progressively: - the determination of exposure to environmental noise, through noise mapping, by methods of assessment common to the Member States; - ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public; - adoption of action plans by the Member States, based upon noise-mapping results, with a view to preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and particularly where exposure levels can induce harmful effects on human health and to preserving environmental noise quality where it is good. This Directive shall also aim at providing a basis for developing Community measures to reduce noise emitted by the major sources, in particular road and rail vehicles and infrastructure, aircraft, outdoor and industrial equipment and mobile machinery. To this end, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council, no later than 18 July 2006, appropriate legislative proposals. This Directive shall apply to environmental noise to which humans are exposed in particular in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noisesensitive buildings and areas. This Directive shall not apply to noise that is caused by the exposed person himself, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at work places or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas. According to the Directive, Member States shall ensure that no later than 18 July 2008 the competent authorities have drawn up action plans designed to manage, within their territories, noise issues and effects, including noise reduction if necessary for: a) places near the major roads which have more than six million vehicle passages a year, major railways which have more than 60 000 train passages per year and major airports; b) agglomerations with more than 250 000 inhabitants. Such plans shall also aim to protect quiet areas against an increase in noise. The measures within the plans are at the discretion of the competent authorities, but should notably address priorities which may be identified by the exceeding of any relevant limit value or by other criteria chosen by the Member States and apply in particular to the most important areas as established by strategic noise mapping. Member States shall ensure that no later than 30 June 2007 strategic noise maps showing the situation in the preceding calendar year have been made and, where relevant, approved by the competent authorities. No later than 18 January 2004, the Commission will submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council containing a review of existing Community measures relating to sources of environmental noise. Every five years the Commission shall publish a summary report of data from strategic noise maps and action plans. The first report shall be submitted by 18 July 2009. No later than 18 July 2009, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council a report on the implementation of this Directive. **ENTRY INTO FORCE** : 18 /07/2002. **IMPLEMENTATION** : 18/07/2004.