

Ambient air quality: common strategy for assessment and management

1994/0106(SYN) - 30/11/1995 - Council position

The Council's common position incorporates 24 of the 37 amendments adopted by the European Parliament and included by the Commission in its amended proposal. The amendments included concerned: - an additional provision governing the revision of limit values and alert thresholds; - a new recital relating to the need for research into the combined effects of pollutants and climate; - the term "sampling"; - the role of the European Environment Agency in implementing the directive; - coordination of measures adopted under this directive with those implemented in connection with the directive on integrated pollution control; - a reference to short-term measures, including the suspension of industrial activities, when there is a risk that limit values will be exceeded; - the inclusion of particulate matter of less than 10 micrometres in Annex I (the Council deleted fluoride and acid deposits and added mercury, poly-aromatic hydrocarbons and nickel in general). However, the Council did not accept the amendments concerning: - a third series of pollutants to be considered at a later stage; - shorter deadlines for proposals relating to CO and benzene; - shorter deadlines for finalizing and submitting air quality improvement plans. The Council also: - abandoned the idea of labeling zones on the basis of the air quality; - introduced the concept of a "target value" for ozone (and only ozone) due to the specific nature of this pollutant; - defined the term "agglomeration"; - added a list of factors to be taken into account when setting limit values/alert thresholds (new Annex); - added a new provision making preliminary data on levels of pollutants available before the specific directives provided for in the directive enter into force; - introduced the principle of maintaining air quality in zones where levels are below the limit value; - replaced the advisory committee by a type IIIa regulatory committee responsible for adapting to technical progress.