

Environment: integrated pollution prevention and control

1993/0526(SYN) - 24/09/1996 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: To prevent and minimize emissions from industrial installations into the air, water or soil, on the basis of a horizontal approach which is to replace the sectoral approach followed to date.

COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control. **SUBSTANCE:** The framework Directive provides for compliance by industrial installations with emission limit values established on the basis of the 'best available techniques' (BATs) and the issue of permits in respect of such installations, so as to ensure that no new installations may be operated unless they comply with the Directive. The Directive lays down the general principles governing the basic obligations of the operators of such installations, which the Member States must enforce. Applications for permits for new installations and for substantial changes to existing installations must be made available to the public, to enable it to comment on them before the competent authority reaches its decision. The Directive contains a detailed list of the descriptions which must be provided when permits are applied for. Where more than one competent authority is involved, consideration of applications shall be coordinated in order to guarantee an effective integrated approach. The Directive also covers compliance with and reconsideration and updating of permit conditions. It also provides for the setting of limit values for those categories of installations in respect of which the need for Community action has been identified. **ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 30/10/1996 **DEADLINE FOR TRANSPOSITION:** 30/10/1999. An eight-year transition period is envisaged for existing installations.