

Contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms GMM (amend. Directive 90/219/EEC)

1995/0340(SYN) - 12/03/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Antonios TRAKATELLIS (EPP, GR) Parliament amended the proposal amending Directive 90/219/EEC on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms (GMM) mainly with the aim of specifying the way in which the risk should be assessed. An amendment thus classes the GMMs in different categories according to the risk to human health. Parliament considers that for all activities involving GMMs the principle of good microbiological practice and of safety and health at work must apply in accordance with the relevant Community laws. Furthermore specific measures should be adopted and used for the control of the disposal of material from the activities of the contained use of GMMs. Parliament considers that a contained environment should avoid and not simply limit (as proposed by the Commission) contact between GMMs and the general population and the environment. According to other amendments legally responsible users of GMMs shall have full civil and criminal liability for any damage to humans or the environment. Before the activities begin they must take out sufficient liability insurance to cover accidents. Furthermore users must draw up appropriate reports and keep a register of any serious accidents. The Commission should set up and keep at the disposal of the Member States a register of accidents involving possible serious damage to public health or the environment. Parliament also hopes that monitoring of the implementation of the directive will be by a management committee rather than a regulatory committee, which would increase the freedom of action of Parliament and the Commission vis-à-vis the Council. Lastly, Parliament called for the co-decision procedure to apply to this proposal, which should therefore be based on Articles 100a and 189b of the EC Treaty,.