Quality of petrol and diesel fuels

1996/0163(COD) - 10/04/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Noël MAMERE (V, F), the European Parliament calls for tighter mandatory minimum specifications than those proposed by the European Commission for petrol and diesel. As regards the sulphur content of diesel, it proposes the coexistence, during an initial period, of two types of diesel, 'dirty' diesel containing 100 ppm of sulphur and 'clean' diesel containing 30 ppm, with the former being phased out after 2005. Parliament introduces a derogation enabling Member States facing serious economic difficulties in the period after 1 January 2000 to continue to authorize, until 1 January 2005 at the latest, the placing on the market on their territory of fuels which comply with other specifications. Separate specifications are called for in respect of fuels (diesel, LPG, CNG) used by buses, taxis and commercial vehicles, which are largely responsible for urban pollution. Parliament also calls for a Commission proposal clearing the way for the active use of tax incentives (adjusted excise duties) in order to facilitate the introduction of improved fuels.