Safety and health of workers: protection against risk from explosive atmospheres

1995/0235(COD) - 20/06/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Graham MATHER (PPE, UK), the European Parliament approved the proposal for a directive with the following amendments: - Parliament urged that the directive should be applied in a flexible way and thus proposed that it should follow certain principles for the prevention and reduction of effects of an explosion rather than preventing the formation of explosive atmospheres; it stressed that the requisite protection for workers can be provided only by taking measures to respect these principles; - on supervision, Parliament urged that it should be ensured by use of instruments and modern technical means as well as by education and training in working environments where explosive atmospheres may arise; where workers from several undertakings are present at the same workplace each employer shall ensure appropriate supervision of its workers or may designate one of the employers as overall supervisor; - on protection documents, Parliament asked that employer should draw up and keep up to date a health and safety plan, which may be a set of documents satisfying the pertinent requirements of Directive 89/391/EEC; - requirements for modifications to hardware or equipment already used before entry into force of the directive must be applied on a similar timescale to Directive 94/98/EEC, which does not come into force before 2003. - the Member States must take measures to inform undertakings likely to be affected by the directive, particularly SMEs, of the provisions of the directive, particularly by ensuring a wide distribution of the vade-mecum setting out guidelines for some possible ways of complying with minimum requirements of the directive; - the periods for implementing the directive are extended (24 months after adoption of the directive instead of 31 December 1997); - finally, in Annex I (Zones), Parliament stresses that each zone or place where there is an explosive atmosphere should be assessed in accordance with normal operation.