

Environment: access to information and justice, public participation, application of the Aarhus Convention

2003/0242(COD) - 31/08/2005 - Commission communication on Council's position

The changes introduced by the Council help to clarify the proposal in the light of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, in particular in relation to access to environmental information. They are also more specific in relation to public participation, while leaving the necessary flexibility to the institutions and bodies concerned to provide for the procedural arrangements and details through practical and/or other provisions. While the criteria and procedure for entitlement of non-governmental organisations to make a request for internal review have been simplified, the Commission is satisfied that they maintain crucial elements for qualifying that such organisation's primary objective must be the promotion of environmental protection in the context of Community environment policy. The Commission therefore supports the common position.