Basic information

1988/0161(SYN) SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)	Procedure completed
Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT **Subject** 3.70.12 Waste management, domestic waste, packaging, light industrial waste	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	BOWE David Robert (PSE)	27/07/1994

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	BOWE David Robert (PSE)	27/07/1994

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	PALACIO VALLELERSUNDI Ana (PPE)	02/12/1994

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	1946	1996-09-16
Environment	1817	1994-12-16
Telecommunications	1888	1995-11-27

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
18/10/1988	Legislative proposal published	COM(1988)0559	Summary
27/07/1989	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/03/1990	Vote in committee		

14/05/1990	Debate in Parliament		
28/11/1990	Vote in committee		
22/10/1991	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1991)0373 	Summary
24/11/1993	Vote in committee		
24/03/1995	Formal reconsultation of Parliament		
24/03/1995	Amended legislative proposal for reconsultation published	04975/1995	
26/07/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
26/07/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary, reconsultation	A4-0193/1995	
27/11/1995	Council position published	10227/4/1995	Summary
15/02/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
25/04/1996	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
25/04/1996	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0140/1996	
22/05/1996	Debate in Parliament		
24/06/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0301 	
16/09/1996	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		Summary
16/09/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/09/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1988/0161(SYN)
Procedure type	SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 130S-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/07335

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A3-0084/1990 OJ C 149 18.06.1990, p. 0006	22/03/1990	
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading /single reading		T3-0236/1990 OJ C 149 18.06.1990, p. 0118-0150	17/05/1990	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T3-0617/1990 OJ C 019 28.01.1991, p. 0058-0027	12/12/1990	Summary

Committee final report tabled for plenary, 1st reading /single reading		A3-0365/1993 OJ C 342 20.12.1993, p. 0003	24/11/1993	
Text adopted by Parliament confirming position adopted at 1st reading		T3-0683/1993 OJ C 342 20.12.1993, p. 0015-0033	02/12/1993	Summary
Committee final report tabled for plenary, reconsultation		A4-0193/1995 OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0010	26/07/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament after reconsultation		T4-0390/1995 OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0055-0064	20/09/1995	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0140/1996 OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0005	25/04/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0241/1996 OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0055-0076	22/05/1996	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Amended legislative proposal for reconsultation	04975/1995	24/03/1995	
Council position	10227/4/1995 OJ C 087 25.03.1996, p. 0001	27/11/1995	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1988)0559 OJ C 319 12.12.1988, p. 0057	18/10/1988	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1991)0373 OJ C 299 20.11.1991, p. 0009	22/10/1991	Summary
Reconsultation	COM(1993)0570	10/11/1993	
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0301	24/06/1996	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0426/1989 OJ C 139 05.06.1989, p. 0001	30/03/1989	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Directive 1996/0059
OJ L 243 24.09.1996, p. 0031 Summary

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 12/12/1990 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 16/09/1996 - Final act

OBJECTIVE : to approximate the laws of the Member States on the controlled disposal of PCB/PCT and equipment contaminated by such substances (in particular, transformers and condensers). COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Directive 96/59/EC on the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCB/ PCT). SUBSTANCE : the Directive amends and replaces Directive 76/403/EEC on the disposal of PCBs, which became obsolete following the prohibition of the marketing of such substances and the progress in disposal technologies. The main elements of the Directive are as follows: - Member States are required, within a three-year period, to draw up plans for the decontamination and/or disposal of inventoried equipment and the PCBs contained therein, as well as outlines for the collection and subsequent disposal of equipment which is not subject to inventory; these plans and outlines are communicated to the Commission; - deadline for decontamination and/or disposal of equipment containing PCBs which is subject to inventory: end of 2010, except for certain transformers containing between 50 and 500 ppm (particles per million) in PCBs which can remain in service until the end of their useful lives; - PCB volumes required for the compiling of the abovementioned inventory: more than 5 dm3. An interim report on the implementation of the Directive will be drawn up by the Commission in the year 2000. DATE of ENTRY INTO FORCE : 16 September 1996 DEADLINE FOR TRANSPOSITION INTO NATIONAL LEGISLATION: 16 March 1998.

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 16/12/1994

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 27/11/1995 - Council position

The common position takes account of developments since the submission of the amended proposal, as regards both international and Community instruments and technical progress on the elimination of dangerous substances. In September 1992, the contracting parties to the Paris Convention decided to eliminate PCBs by the end of 1999 in the case of states with coastlines on the North Sea and by the end of 2010 in the case of other states party to the Convention. In addition, several other aspects of the proposal have been resolved through a number of Community acts (e.g. directive on the transfer and incineration of PCBs). The Council agreed that the common position should incorporate Parliament's amendments seeking to: - ensure that there were sufficient installations in the Community for disposing of PCBs; - add monomethyl-polychloro-diphenyl methanes to the definition of PCBs and the idea of cumulative limits on the various substances defined as PCBs; - ban incineration of PCBs on incinerator ships; - ban recycling or, in other words, separation of PCBs from other substances so that PCBs can be re-used; - isolate PCBs from any flammable products in order to prevent the risk of fire; - require any undertaking which decontaminates and/or disposes of used PCBs and equipment containing PCBs to obtain a licence; - require that, when PCBs are replaced in a transformer after it has been decontaminated, the substitute fluid is much less hazardous than PCBs; - ensure that the competent authorities monitor the quantities of PCBs notified on the inventory; - add PCBs to compulsory decontamination and /or disposal plans for inventoried equipment ; - accept other methods of disposal apart from incineration. The Council also strengthened certain aspects of the amended proposal, such as: - the compilation of inventories, where it is made mandatory for every quantity exceeding 5 dm3 to be inventoried within a shorter period than laid down originally. The checking of inventories has also been made stricter; - the topping up of transformers with PCBs, which will be prohibited; - more flexibility in the interpretation of the principle of proximity in order to allow certain Member States with no disposal capacity to comply with the directive; Finally, the Council also made other important changes, mainly involving: - the introduction of a deadline by the end of the year 2010 for the elimination of PCBs, which does not prevent Member States which have undertaken to eliminate their PCBs earlier from

doing so; - the revision and simplification of the conditions governing the decontamination of equipment and a derogation from the deadline of 2010 for transformers with low concentrations of PCBs so that they may be disposed of at the end of their useful lives; - the conferral on the Commission of additional implementing powers such as the fixing of technical standards for other methods of disposing of PCBs, a list of the production names of capacitors and other less hazardous substitutes.

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 20/09/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament after reconsultation

The European Parliament approved the amended legal basis proposed by the Council.

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 30/03/1989 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 17/05/1990 - Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 22/05/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

Adopting the report by Mr David HOWE (PSE, UK), the European Parliament approved at second reading the Council's common position on the directive on the disposal of PCB/PCT. In its amendments, Parliament considered however that: - there was a need to fund research into other methods of disposal of PCBs and PCTs and other persistent organic chlorines, in particular methods involving bacterial biodegradation and pretreatment using chlorine extraction and innovative dehalogenation chemical processes; - having regard to technical progress, the maximum limit for the PCB and PCT content of mixtures to be used as combustibles, including waste oil, should be reduced to 20 ppm. Lastly, the European Parliament stressed that violations concerning the disposal of PCBs and equipment containing PCBs should be effectively penalized by the Member States.

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 22/10/1991 - Modified legislative proposal

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 16/09/1996

The Council adopted the Directive by unanimous decision. An interim report on the implementation of the Directive was to be drawn up by the Commission in 2000.

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 18/10/1988 - Legislative proposal

Waste: elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls PCB and polychlorinated terphenyls PCT

1988/0161(SYN) - 02/12/1993

In its first reading under the codecision procedure, the European Parliament confirmed its vote of 12 December 1990.