Basic information

1994/0194(SYN) SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)	Procedure completed
Air quality: improvement of comparability and transparency at European level (reduction of emissions) **Subject** 3.70.02 Atmospheric pollution, motor vehicle pollution	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	POLLACK Anita Jean (PSE)	04/11/1994

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	POLLACK Anita Jean (PSE)	04/11/1994

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	1986	1997-01-27
Agriculture and Fisheries	1904	1996-02-26
Environment	1873	1995-10-06

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/09/1994	Additional information		Summary
07/09/1994	Legislative proposal published	COM(1994)0345	Summary
24/10/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/05/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
23/05/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0117/1995	
15/06/1995	Debate in Parliament		
28/11/1995	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0468	Summary

26/02/1996	Council position published	12122/2/1995	Summary
20/06/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
03/09/1996	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
03/09/1996	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0267/1996	
17/09/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
19/11/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0534	
27/01/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		Summary
27/01/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/02/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/0194(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/4/07643

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0117/1995 OJ C 166 03.07.1995, p. 0003	23/05/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0318/1995 OJ C 166 03.07.1995, p. 0161-0167	16/06/1995	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0267/1996 OJ C 320 28.10.1996, p. 0004	03/09/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0457/1996 OJ C 320 28.10.1996, p. 0064-0074	18/09/1996	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	12122/2/1995 OJ C 219 27.07.1996, p. 0001	26/02/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1994)0345 OJ C 281 07.10.1994, p. 0009	07/09/1994	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1995)0468 OJ C 030 03.02.1996, p. 0008	28/11/1995	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1996)0391	07/03/1996	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0534	19/11/1996	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0184/1995 OJ C 110 02.05.1995, p. 0003	22/02/1995	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1997/0101
OJ L 035 05.02.1997, p. 0014 Summary

Air quality: improvement of comparability and transparency at European level (reduction of emissions)

1994/0194(SYN) - 07/03/1996 - Commission communication on Council's position

On balance, the Commission considered that the common position represented a good compromise, given that the amendments by the European Parliament which were not incorporated by the Council were not essential to the implementation of the enacting terms proposed.

Air quality: improvement of comparability and transparency at European level (reduction of emissions)

1994/0194(SYN) - 28/11/1995 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission's amended proposal incorporates the amendments by the European Parliament concerning: - the introduction of a distinction between pollutants covered by the ambient air quality directives, for which the exchange of information is compulsory, and those which are not covered and for which an exchange of information is only required where measurements are taken by the Member States (the reference to the obligation to measure substances at a later stage has been deleted); - making data and computer programmes for consulting databases available to the public; - changes to

the dates of the entry into force of the enacting terms proposed; - the preparation of reports on trends in air quality in Europe and on cases where limit values are exceeded; - an assessment of the system after 5 years (rather than 2). However, the Commission did not include the amendment requiring all measuring stations in the Member States to participate in the exchange of information.

Air quality: improvement of comparability and transparency at European level (reduction of emissions)

1994/0194(SYN) - 27/01/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to establish a reciprocal exchange of information and data measuring ambient air pollution within the Member States. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 97/101/EC establishing a reciprocal exchange of information and data from networks and individual stations measuring ambient air pollution within the Member States. SUBSTANCE: the decision establishes a reciprocal exchange of information and data from networks and individual stations measuring ambient air pollution. This reciprocal exchange covers: a) networks and stations and b) measurements of air quality obtained from the stations. The decision makes a distinction between pollutants covered by the directives on ambient air quality for which the exchange of information is compulsory and those which are not covered and for which the exchange of information is not required to the extent that they are measured by the Member States. The information gathered will be accessible to the public via an information system set up by the European Environment Agency; it may also be supplied by the Agency on request. The Commission will prepare a general report intended for the public each year, summarizing the collected data and giving an overview of the trends in air quality in the European Union. At the latest five years after the entry into force of the decision the Commission will submit to the Council a report on its implementation. ENTRY INTO FORCE: the decision is applicable with effect from 01/01/1997.

Air quality: improvement of comparability and transparency at European level (reduction of emissions)

1994/0194(SYN) - 27/01/1997

The Council formally adopted the Decision

Air quality: improvement of comparability and transparency at European level (reduction of emissions)

1994/0194(SYN) - 16/06/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

Adopting the report by Mrs Pollack, the European Parliament approved the proposal subject to the following amendments: - the public should have access to the information which the Commission sends the Member States. The data supplied by the Commission should be accessible by computer link on request; - the Commission or the European Environment Agency should draft a report containing general information for the public. This report should include a summary of the data collected, an analysis of the number of times and days EU guidelines were exceeded at each measurement site and an outline of the underlying trends in air quality in the EU; - Member States should make an effort to supply raw data and statistics for all measurement stations; - Annex 1 to the proposal should be divided into two parts, the first part containing a list of substances to be measured under the framework directive on ambient air quality and the second part containing the pollutants not covered by the directive to the extent that they are already being measured in the Member States; - the decision would apply as of 1 October 1995 and would be revised two years later.

Air quality: improvement of comparability and transparency at European level (reduction of emissions)

1994/0194(SYN) - 26/02/1996

The Council adopted its common position. That common position will be forwarded to the European Parliament for a second reading under the cooperation procedure.

Air quality: improvement of comparability and transparency at European level (reduction of emissions)

1994/0194(SYN) - 07/09/1994 - Legislative proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to establish a new exchange of information and data from individual networks and stations measuring ambient air pollution in the Member States. Compared with the old system of exchanges, this system will extend the scope and quality of the data transmitted, while ensuring that a flexible procedure is implemented. The stations used within the framework of the "air quality" directives and additional stations selected by the Member States will participate in the new exchange of information, which covers two areas: - networks and stations: the exchange covers detailed information describing the networks and stations operating in the Member States in order to monitor air pollution; - the results of

measurements: the exchange covers individual statistics and results obtained from measurements of air pollution carried out by the stations in the Member States. The proposal makes provision for data to be transferred on 34 pollutants, insofar as they are measured by the Member States. The Commission will be responsible for implementing the reciprocal exchange and will refer to the European Environment Agency any questions which come within its remit.

Air quality: improvement of comparability and transparency at European level (reduction of emissions)

1994/0194(SYN) - 26/02/1996 - Council position

The Council's common position incorporates 5 of the 10 amendments accepted by the Commission in its amended proposal, viz.: - a distinction between pollutants covered by the ambient air quality directives, for which the exchange of information is compulsory, and those which are not covered and for which an exchange of information is only required where measurements are taken by the Member States; - changes to Annex I made necessary by the amendment as a whole; - changes to the dates of entry into force of the enacting terms proposed (1 January 1997); - assessment of the system 5 years after the entry into force of the directive. The Council also made various changes to the amended proposal with a view to: - clarifying the quantities on which information is to be exchanged (data calculated) and stipulating that responsibility for implementing the decision is to be shared between the Commission and the bodies designated by the Member States; - clarifying the timetable for the exchange of information on networks and stations between the Member States and the Commission and adopting a more realistic time limit for first transmission, taking account of the time needed to set up the network of stations; - deleting the provision under which the list of pollutants covered by the directive could be amended under a comitology procedure; - simplifying Annexes 2 to 4, particularly as regards the details of some of the information to be supplied. The common position did not incorporate Parliament's amendments concerning: - changes to the title of the proposal; - making information available to the public; - the inclusion of a fourth category for traffic in Annex II.

Air quality: improvement of comparability and transparency at European level (reduction of emissions)

1994/0194(SYN) - 22/02/1995 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The ESC endorsed this proposal in that it represented an important step both in establishing effective and comparable checks on ambient air quality and in making more information available to the EU citizen. It would, however, like to make a number of observations intended to improve the drafting of the proposal for a decision. Firstly, the list of pollutants in Annex 1 was far longer than that in the proposed directive on air quality, which covered only 14 of these 34 pollutants. Furthermore, the sheer quantity of exchangeable data, especially in those Member States with a dense network of air quality measurement stations, could be enormous and make this exchange unworkable. Consequently, the Member States should operate a ‘pyramidal’ selection of measuring stations so that the exchange and assessment would be carried out first at local and regional level prior to the Community dimension. On this basis the Member States should facilitate the exchange of data between a sufficient number of stations that were representative of the different geographical situations and regions in that Member State; this would be the most cost-effective way to achieve the objective. By the same token the ESC considered it more advisable to draw up separate annexes. The first would set out those substances that had to be measured under Community Directives; the second the rest of the pollutants not covered by Community Directives on air quality. The ESC considered that the technical committee set up under the Directive on ambient air quality assessment and management should be responsible for approving, jointly with the Commission, the adaptation of the present decision to scientific and technical progress. The European Environment Agency, as part of its remit, would have to assist the Commission in formulating the proposals to be submitted to the technical committee. Finally, the ESC considered that, in the sectoral programmes for 1993-1997 of the Joint Research Centre in Ispra, in the section ‘measuring and testing’ (1.1.1.), with a budget of ECU 105 million, and in the actual sectoral programme ‘Standardisation, measurement and testing’, a specific budget line should be established for improving and standardising the measuring and testing methods for some of those pollutants contained in Annex 1, the measurement of which at the moment was very expensive and in some cases not sufficiently reliable.

Air quality: improvement of comparability and transparency at European level (reduction of emissions)

1994/0194(SYN) - 18/09/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mrs Anita POLLACK (PSE, UK) on the common position establishing a reciprocal exchange of information and data measuring ambient air pollution within the Member States, Parliament considered that the data collected by the Commission on ambient air pollution within the Member States should be made available to the public on request. It also called on the Commission to prepare a general report for public consumption summarizing the collected data and outlining the underlying trends in air quality in the European Union.