Basic information

1996/0312(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Revised community eco-label award scheme (regul. 880/92/EEC) Repealed by 2008/0152(COD) **Subject** 3.70.17 European ecolabel and ecolabelling, ecodesign	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	SCHNELLHARDT Horst (PPE-DE)	02/09/1999

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	POGGIOLINI Danilo (PPE)	16/04/1997
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	TAPPIN Michael (PSE)	08/04/1997
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	SOLTWEDEL-SCHÄFER Irene Barbara Lilia (V)	22/05/1997
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	PALACIO VALLELERSUNDI Ana (PPE)	18/06/1997

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Environment	2106	1998-06-16
Environment	2194	1999-06-24
Development	2215	1999-11-11
Health	2281	2000-06-29

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/12/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0603	Summary
09/04/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
18/03/1998	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
18/03/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0119/1998	
12/05/1998	Debate in Parliament		Summary
16/06/1998	Debate in Council		
19/01/1999	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0021	Summary
05/05/1999	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
26/10/1999	Council position published	10656/1/1999	Summary
02/12/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
23/02/2000	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
23/02/2000	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0054/2000	
14/03/2000	Debate in Parliament		
15/03/2000	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0099/2000	Summary
29/06/2000	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
17/07/2000	Final act signed		
17/07/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/09/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/0312(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Repealed by 2008/0152(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175-p1 Rules of Procedure EP 52-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/12239

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0119/1998 OJ C 152 18.05.1998, p. 0004	18/03/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0273/1998 OJ C 167 01.06.1998, p. 0079-0128	13/05/1998	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament confirming position adopted at 1st reading		T4-0418/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0252-0271	06/05/1999	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0054/2000 OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0006	23/02/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0099/2000 OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0045-0146	15/03/2000	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	10656/1/1999 OJ C 025 28.01.2000, p. 0001	26/10/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1996)0603 OJ C 114 12.04.1997, p. 0009	11/12/1996	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1999)0021 OJ C 064 06.03.1999, p. 0014	19/01/1999	Summary
Reconsultation	SEC(1999)0581	28/04/1999	
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1999)1931	24/11/1999	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(2000)0230	18/04/2000	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0776/1997 OJ C 296 29.09.1997, p. 0077	10/07/1997	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date

European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2000/1980
OJ L 237 21.09.2000, p. 0001 Summary

Revised community eco-label award scheme (regul. 880/92/EEC)

1996/0312(COD) - 18/04/2000 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

The Commission can accept all 6 of the Parliament's amendments in full : - active involvement of environmental and consumer NGOs (Recital 5); - plans to co-ordinate and co-operation with national eco-labels (Article 5); - joint display of Community and national logos (Article 11); - active involvement of all interested parties (Article 14); - fees. In conclusion, the Commission is not amending its proposal, but invites the Council to take full account of this opinion when considering the amendments proposed by the Parliament.

Revised community eco-label award scheme (regul. 880/92/EEC)

1996/0312(COD) - 19/01/1999 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission's amended proposal incorporates 7 of the 42 amendments adopted by the European Parliament at first reading. The amendments included seek to: - stress the importance of environmental NGOs and consumer organisations in the decision-making process (NGOs should be consulted when ecological criteria are established); - include a high level of environmental protection in the criteria for awarding the eco-label; - exclude medical devices from the field of application of the regulation; - inform the competent authorities of any modifications made to products for which an eco-label has been applied for; - stipulate that the label must contain useful information on the reasons why it has been awarded in order to help consumers understand its importance; - with regard to the low technical reliability of products, to make aptitude for use one of the fundamental criteria to be met. It should be noted that the Commission rejected amendments seeking to: - change the legal basis for the proposal (article 130 S (1), article 100 A and article 189 B of the EC Treaty); - replace the European Eco-label Organisation (EEO) by a Technical Committee for the Eco-label (TCEL) with no legal personality and a solely technical mandate; - introduce a graduated eco-label; - extend the field of application of the regulation to services; - reduce charges; - reconvene the eco-label consultative forum; - promote the use of products with the eco-label by calling on the Commission and the European and national authorities to set an example in their public purchasing policies; - introduce complementarity between the Community label and national labels.

Revised community eco-label award scheme (regul. 880/92/EEC)

1996/0312(COD) - 10/07/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee notes the difficulties which have emerged over the application of the regulation, but feels that the start-up phase should not be judged too negatively. National systems such as the "Blue Angel" and the "Nordic Swan" initially faced problems, but later became well established. The establishment of a number of national eco-labelling schemes, at about the same time as the EU scheme was launched, also contributed to its modest start. The Committee attaches considerable importance to the success of the EU scheme, since it is the only product- related voluntary policy instrument to pursue the cause of sustainable consumption. The Committee believes that the future of environmental labelling lies with strengthening the EU scheme. To achieve this, an effort should be made to harmonize the criteria of the national eco-label schemes as closely as possible, so that they do not create barriers to trade

Revised community eco-label award scheme (regul. 880/92/EEC)

1996/0312(COD) - 24/11/1999 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Council's Common Position takes on board many of the European Parliament's amendments, which have been carefully assessed. The amendments introduced in the text do not affect the spirit of the original Commission Proposal of improving the efficiency of the Scheme. This key objective is maintained and even reinforced. The Scheme will become more transparent in the eyes of consumers and of economic operators. The Commission is also satisfied that the Common Position received the unanimous support of all the Member States.

Revised community eco-label award scheme (regul. 880/92/EEC)

1996/0312(COD) - 15/03/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament has adopted the report drafted by Mr. Horst SCHNELLHARDT (EPP/ED, D) for a resolution on the common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a European Parliament and Council Regulation on a revised Community Eco-Label Award Scheme. This opinion was subject to several amendments relating to: - the promotion of products awarded the eco-label and the creation of a mechanism for the exchange of information on existing and future product groups at national and at European Union level; - the application fee paid by SMEs, product manufacturers and service providers in developing countries will be reduced by at least 2.5%. In addition, the EP also included a new Article relating to the working plan: the first review of the working plan on how the plans for coordination and cooperation between the Community system and the national environmental labelling systems are being implemented. Furthermore, there is also an additional Article relating to the product: if a product is entitled to carry both the Community eco-label and the national label, the two logos shall be displayed side by side on the product. In conclusion, the European Parliament has stated that in drawing up the assessment and verification requirements the objective of keeping costs to a strict minimum must be observed. This is particularly important in order to facilitate participation by SMEs in the Community eco-label system and thus to contribute to the wider dissemination of the system.

Revised community eco-label award scheme (regul. 880/92/EEC)

1996/0312(COD) - 17/07/2000 - Final act

PURPOSE : to establish a revised Community eco-label system. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Regulation 1980/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on a revised Community eco-label award scheme. CONTENT : the objective of the Community eco-label award scheme is to promote products which have the potential to reduce negative environmental impacts, as compared with other products in the same product group, thus contributing to the efficient use of resources and a high level of environmental protection. This objective shall be pursued through the provisions of guidance and accurate, non-deceptive and scientifically based information to consumers on such products. The Community eco-label scheme functions on a voluntary basis and may be applied to products belonging to product groups for which ecological criteria have been fixed by the Commission in accordance with the Regulation. The revised regulation foresees: - the use of an eco-label consisting of two parts: box 1 contains the logo and a phrase which reads "awarded to goods or services which meet the environmental requirements of the EU eco-labelling scheme", and box 2 contains information about the reasons for the award of the eco-label; - the setting up of the European Union Eco-Labelling Board (EUEB) made up of the competent bodies already designated by the Member States and a consultation forum which shall be in charge of setting and reviewing eco-label criteria as well as assessment and verification requirements; - the setting up of a new mechanism, the working plan, which shall include a strategy for the development of the Scheme, which should set out for the next subsequent three years: - objectives for the environmental improvement; - a non-exhaustive list of product groups and; - plans for coordination and cooperation between the Scheme and other eco-label award schemes in Member States. Finally, before the 24/09/2005, the Commission shall review the Scheme in the light of the experience gained during its operation. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 22/09/2000.

Revised community eco-label award scheme (regul. 880/92/EEC)

1996/0312(COD) - 13/05/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Danilo POGGIOLINI (PPE, I), the European Parliament amended the proposal for a revised Community eco-label award scheme. It proposed extending the eco-label scheme to services but considered that the Regulation should not apply to medical devices. Parliament proposed modifying the logo by inserting in it a maximum of three succinct information elements explaining to consumers the grounds for awarding the eco-label: e.g. low air pollution, energy efficiency, reduced toxicity. In order to promote the use of products bearing eco-labels, public administrations, both at Community and at national level, should set an example in their own procurement policies. Parliament opposed the setting-up of a private and independent European Eco-label Organisation to set eco-label criteria on behalf of the Commission. In order to avoid the expense and delays which this would entail, Parliament considered that the Commission ought instead to set up its own Technical Committee for the Eco-Label, composed of representatives of the competent national bodies, assisted by the Consultation Forum, whose members would come from environmental protection associations and associations representing consumers and industry. Parliament accepted the Commission's proposal that applicants for eco-labels be required to pay the cost of processing their applications, as well as an annual fee, but it proposed a three-band system (ECU 500 for an annual volume of sales up to ECU 500 000, ECU 2000 for an annual volume of sales up to ECU 2 000 000, and ECU 5000 for an annual volume of sales exceeding ECU 2 000 000). However, Parliament decided to reduce the annual fee by half in the case of SMEs and manufacturers in developing countries. In order to avoid sowing confusion among consumers and to prevent concealed protectionism, the Commission had proposed that existing national eco-labels should be replaced by the European eco- label within five years. In adopting an amendment by the Green Group, Parliament called for national eco-labels to be abolished only if an independent study showed that the environmental criteria applicable to the Community eco-label were at least as strict as the best national scheme. Parliament also extended the legal basis of the proposal, inserting Article 100a of the EC Treaty (internal market) in addition to Article 130s(1), to ensure that codecision by Parliament and the Council was applicable, and amended the relevant budget headings.

Revised community eco-label award scheme (regul. 880/92/EEC)

1996/0312(COD) - 11/12/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: The proposal for a regulation aims to establish a revised Community eco-label award system. SUBSTANCE: In view of the contribution which the Community eco-label system can make to sustainable consumption in the EU, and having regard to the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the regulation, a revision is now necessary. The objectives of the revised regulation are: - to clarify the nature of the scheme, the principles on which it is based and its methodological approach: the aim of the revised regulation is to guide consumers towards products which represent more environment friendly alternatives compared to other products in the same product group; - to introduce a grading for the eco-label and define what information for consumers has to be included in the label; - to set out the procedural principles to govern the operation of the scheme, aimed in particular at ensuring the efficiency and transparency of the eco-label criteria setting process; - to attribute the task of establishing criteria to

an independent organization, the European Eco-Label Organization (EEO) which would act on a mandate from the Commission; - to ensure complementarity between the Community eco-label and other major eco-label schemes in the Union; - to introduce a ceiling for the annual fees to be charged for the use of the label, and to introduce a reduced rate of fee for SMEs and manufacturers of developing countries; - to widen access to the eco-label by providing the possibility for retailers to apply for the eco-label in the case of products marketed under their own brand name; - to ensure continued compatibility of the Community scheme with the general principles of international trade agreements and consistency with the internationally recognized standards for eco-labelling; - to ensure that the eco-label is a sign of guarantee of reduced environmental impact.

Revised community eco-label award scheme (regul. 880/92/EEC)

1996/0312(COD) - 06/05/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament confirming position adopted at 1st reading

Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam on 01/05/99, the European Parliament confirmed as its first reading under codecision procedure its vote of 13/05/98 on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation on a revised Community eco-label award scheme.

Revised community eco-label award scheme (regul. 880/92/EEC)

1996/0312(COD) - 26/10/1999 - Council position

The Council adopted wholly or in part 23 amendments proposed by the European Parliament. Several of these amendments proposed including "services" in the eco-label award scheme. The Council agreed in principle but has chosen to define "products" as "goods and services". The Council has given support to the European Parliament's amendment to have a sole, upgraded eco-label logo as it believes that a graded eco-label could cause confusion rather than support consumers' interest. The main changes introduced by the Council include amendments referring to: - the eco-label criteria and assessment and verification requirements (including the additional precision as far as the setting of criteria is concerned, as well as how the review of the eco-label criteria shall be carried out); - the European Union eco-labelling Board and the Consultation Forum (to clarify the role of the EUEB); - the establishment of a Working Plan by the Commission; - infringements (provisions for apprpriate legal or administrative measures to be taken in case a Member State does not fulfil its obligations).