Basic information

1996/2219(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Noise pollution: future policy. Green paper **Subject** 3.70.07 Noise pollution	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	DÍEZ DE RIVERA ICAZA Carmen (PSE)	17/12/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	ARGYROS Stelios (PPE)	23/01/1997
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	ESTEVAN BOLEA María Teresa (PPE)	03/12/1996
TRAN Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
04/11/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0540	Summary
15/11/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/05/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
21/05/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0183/1997	
09/06/1997	Debate in Parliament		
10/06/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/06/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2219(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/08375

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0183/1997 OJ C 182 16.06.1997, p. 0003	21/05/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0283/1997 OJ C 200 30.06.1997, p. 0017-0028	10/06/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0540	04/11/1996	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0436/1996 OJ C 215 16.07.1997, p. 0044	12/03/1997	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0454/1997 OJ C 206 07.07.1997, p. 0001	23/04/1997	Summary

Noise pollution: future policy. Green paper

1996/2219(COS) - 23/04/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee endorses the Commission's plan for a framework directive on measurement and assessment of noise pollution. However, it criticizes the Commission's announcement that the establishment of target values and measures for their implementation is postponed until a "later stage". It points out that, according to the principle of prevention, such target values are urgently necessary for the priority areas of protection against noise, and should not now be put off to some distant future. The Commission's proposal for greater use of economic instruments in noise abatement is acceptable to the Committee; however, the Committee opposes the use of fiscal measures as a kind of "punishment" of those responsible for noise or as a source of public revenue. The Committee also points out that economic instruments are not a substitute for the adoption of provisions on emission limit values. Finally, the ESC urgently recommends that research and development work in the Community should focus on noise abatement, and that efforts be made to improve coordination and concentration.

Noise pollution: future policy. Green paper

1996/2219(COS) - 10/06/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs DIEZ DE RIVERA ICAZA (PSE, E), Parliament endorsed the Commission's Green Paper and called for a framework directive to be adopted in the near future on the reduction of ambient noise. It called on the Commission to establish common methods for measuring and evaluating noise and common exposure indices, relating to both daytime and night-time, and urged it to encourage, in addition, a reduction in noise levels within private dwellings. Moreover, it calls for the noise level of walkmen and household hi-fi systems to be limited, for 'noise maps' to be drawn up for the benefit of the general public, for a study into the actual cost of the damage caused by noise, including health costs, to be carried out, for a reduction in aircraft movements at night, for 'noise education' of the general public, for the formulation of common methods for measuring noise, for effective soundproofing of buildings and for the setting of noise limits for equipment used outdoors. Parliament also calls for measures designed to reduce the main source of ambient noise, namely passenger and freight transport, in particular by road. The Commission is called upon to submit by the end of the year, a new directive on directive on rail transport involving a reduction in noise on heavily used lines.

Noise pollution: future policy. Green paper

1996/2219(COS) - 04/11/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: the Commission's Green Paper is the first step in the development of a programme of action against noise and aims to stimulate public discussion on the future approach to policy on noise reduction. SUBSTANCE: one of the main aims of the Green Paper is to give noise abatement a higher place in terms of legislative priorities: it has been estimated that about 20% of the Union's population or almost 80 million people, suffer from noise levels that experts consider to be unacceptable. The document gives a general picture of the noise situation, reviews Community and national action taken to date and outlines the framework of action covering the improvement of information and its comparability and future options for the reduction of noise from different sources. The future measures envisaged by the Commission are as follows: - general noise: adoption of a directive harmonizing noise exposure assessment methods and organizing the exchange of information followed at a second stage by a document setting target values and requiring the adoption of the measures needed to achieve them; - road traffic: the programme for the reduction of road traffic noise would deal in its second phase with tyre noise. It will study the possibility of integrating noise costs into tax instruments, modifying the Community texts on technical control of vehicles and the possibilities for financial support for the use of low-noise surfaces; - railway noise: assessment of the feasibility of limiting emissions through legislation and of negotiation with the railway industry of agreements setting target values or establishing economic mechanisms such as variable track charges; - air transport: greater stringency in setting emission values, use of economic instruments to encourage the development and use of lower noise aircraft and encouragement of local measures such as land use planning; - machinery: simplification of legislation restricting emissions from outdoor machinery and preparation of a framework directive requiring all equipment to bear a label specifying its noise emission level.