Basic information

1996/2254(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Air pollution: strategy for reducing methane 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	MARSET CAMPOS Pedro (GUE/NGL)	05/02/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	STOCKMANN Ulrich (PSE)	06/02/1997

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/11/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0557	Summary
15/01/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/03/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
18/03/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0120/1998	
01/04/1998	Debate in Parliament		
02/04/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/05/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2254(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/4/08447

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0120/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0015	18/03/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0214/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0143-0181	02/04/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0557	15/11/1996	Summary

Air pollution: strategy for reducing methane emissions

1996/2254(COS) - 02/04/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Pedro MARSET CAMPOS (GUE/NGL, E) Parliament welcomed the Commission communication and proposed the drawing up at European level of a range of regulations with a view to encouraging and promoting any actions which could have a direct or indirect effect on reducing methane emissions. Parliament also called on the Commission: - to draw up a detailed study assessing the scale and effects on the territory of the EU of methane emissions; - to make preparations for the establishment of a European climate agency as a means of coordinating public and private climate protection measures; - to give priority to repairs for old pipelines in the deployment of Community Funds in third countries, and in particular in the former Soviet Union; - to submit proposals on tax concessions for European undertakings that demonstrably contribute to reducing CH4 emissions in third countries; - to adopt quantified reduction values for these emissions and to summarize the measures proposed by it in a qualified and timetabled action plan; - to submit innovative proposals concerning waste disposal legislation; - to take into account the problem of methane emissions in the assessment of the various proposals for the reform of the common agricultural policy; - to encourage greater public awareness through recommendations to the education sector.

Air pollution: strategy for reducing methane emissions

1996/2254(COS) - 15/11/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: following a request from the Environment Council in December 1994 the purpose of the Commission communication is to examine the problems relating to atmospheric methane emissions, identify the main emissions sources and sinks, introduce some cost-effective means to reduce these emissions and propose a set of potential measures for incorporating into a Community emissions mitigation strategy. SUBSTANCE: at both the Community and international level it has been recognised that a methane (greenhouse gas second to carbon dioxide) reduction policy could be an important element of an overall climate change strategy. The Commission therefore proposes a series of options to reduce methane emissions which are derived almost entirely from agriculture (45%), waste (32%) and energy (23%). - In the agriculture sector the Commission suggests developing equipment for the conversion of animal manure into energy (anaerobic digesters or simple covered lagoons). Initially these technologies would be tested through demonstration programmes and feasibility studies implemented at EU, national, regional and local level; at a later stage there would be a legal obligation to install recovery systems for large holdings; - In the municipal waste sector the Commission proposes: a) the promotion of general measures to reduce the quantity of organic material in waste as a whole and minimizing its production, separate collection, development of recycled products, composting; b) adoption of Community legislation requiring, in the absence of other options, that the new landfills are equipped with a methane recovery and use system; c) the adoption of Community legislation requiring the retrofitting of existing landfills with systems for the collection

and use of methane wherever possible; - In the energy sector a Community recommendation should encourage Member States to generate programmes promoting the application of the best available technologies for those coal mines that will still be in operation beyond a certain time frame (10 years for instance). For natural gas the Commission proposes the drawing up of an EU minimum leakages standard and increased control frequency of pipelines at national level. These options will be discussed with all the interested parties so that practical measures can be adopted as quickly as possible.