Basic information

1997/0153(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Public health: Programme of Community action 1999-2003 on pollution-related diseases Amended by 2000/0192(COD) **Subject** 4.20.01 Medicine, diseases	

Key players

European Parliament

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	CABROL Christian E.A. (UPE)	02/07/1997
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	CABROL Christian E.A. (UPE)	02/07/1997

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	HAUG Jutta (PSE)	30/06/1997

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Fisheries	2152	1998-12-17
Health	2056	1997-12-04
Health	2086	1998-04-30
Health	2013	1997-06-05
Social Affairs	2102	1998-06-04
Telecommunications	2172	1999-04-22

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
04/06/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0266	Summary
05/06/1997	Debate in Council		

13/06/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
04/12/1997	Debate in Council		
25/02/1998	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
25/02/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0075/1998	
10/03/1998	Debate in Parliament		Summary
15/04/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0231	Summary
30/04/1998	Council position published	07147/1/1998	Summary
18/06/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
23/09/1998	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
23/09/1998	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0333/1998	
07/10/1998	Debate in Parliament		
17/12/1998	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
04/02/1999	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		
04/02/1999	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		Summary
10/03/1999	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3603/1999	
25/03/1999	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A4-0167/1999	
13/04/1999	Debate in Parliament		
22/04/1999	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
29/04/1999	Final act signed		
29/04/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0153(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Amended by 2000/0192(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 129
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/4/10661

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0075/1998 OJ C 104 06.04.1998, p. 0005	25/02/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0137/1998 OJ C 104 06.04.1998, p. 0099-0136	11/03/1998	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0333/1998 OJ C 328 26.10.1998, p. 0005	23/09/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0565/1998 OJ C 328 26.10.1998, p. 0135-0145	08/10/1998	Summary
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading		A4-0167/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0009	25/03/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading		T4-0300/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0173-0215	14/04/1999	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	07147/1/1998 OJ C 227 20.07.1998, p. 0010	30/04/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1997)0266 OJ C 214 16.07.1997, p. 0007	04/06/1997	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1998)0231 OJ C 156 21.05.1998, p. 0021	15/04/1998	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1998)0998	11/06/1998	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(1998)0658	15/01/1999	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1172/1997	29/10/1997	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0287/1997 OJ C 064 27.02.1998, p. 0091	19/11/1997	
CSL/EP	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3603/1999	10/03/1999	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date

European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 1999/1296 OJ L 155 22.06.1999, p. 0007	Summary

Public health: Programme of Community action 1999-2003 on pollution-related diseases

1997/0153(COD) - 14/04/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading

At third reading under codecision procedure, the European Parliament approved the joint text, approved by the Conciliation Committee, and the relevant joint declaration, for a European Parliament and Council decision adopting a programme of Community action on pollution-related diseases in the context of the framework for action in the field of public health (1999-2001). The Parliament's rapporteur is Christian E.A. Cabrol (UPE,FR).

Public health: Programme of Community action 1999-2003 on pollution-related diseases

1997/0153(COD) - 29/04/1999 - Final act

PURPOSE: to establish a programme of Community action on pollution-related diseases in the context of the framework for action in the field of public health (1999-2001). COMMUNITY MEASURE: decision 1296/1999/EC of the European Parliament and the Council. CONTENT: the programme, which has a financial framework of EURO 3.9 million for the period 1999-2001 aims, in the area of health and the environment, to contribute to the establishment of strategies and policies to prevent pollution-related diseases by: 1) improving information on pollution-related diseases (establishing priorities for the identification of those diseases in which specific pollutants are thought to play a role, examining the quality of epidemiological data for these diseases and identifying where data are lacking, reviewing data currently available on the toxicology of pollutants involved in these diseases and identifying gaps in knowledge which need addressing); 2) improving knowledge and understanding of the assessment and management of pollution-related diseases (improving the comparability of data used in preventive actions against pollution-related diseases, supporting the exchange of information aimed at achieving better public understanding of pollution-related health risks, promoting actions and exchanges of information on the methods of increasing the level of knowledge of the general public and opinion-formers about pollution-related risks to health, their assessment and management and promoting knowledge of behaviour patterns, ways of life and eating habits that could reduce pollution-related health risks). The Commission will ensure the implementation of the programme in close cooperation with the Member States and will also cooperate with institutions and organisations active in the field. The Commission will also be assisted by a committee composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission. The programme will be carried out in consistency and complementarity with other Community actions in the field of public health, particularly the Community action programme on health monitoring (1997-2001) and actions in the environmental and research fields. The programme will be open to participation by the associated countries of Central Europe in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Association Agreements or Additional Protocols relating thereto concerning participation in Community programmes. The programme will also be open to Cyprus and Malta, in accordance with procedures to be agreed. Subject to Article 228 of the Treaty (conclusion of international agreements), the programme will also be implemented in cooperation with third countries and international organisations competent in the sphere of public health. The Commission will ensure continuous monitoring and assessment of the programme. In the final year of the programme's operation, it will submit a full evaluation report to the European Parliament and to the Council, together with its conclusions on the need for future actions. The repot should contain information on Community financing in the various fields of action and should also address developments within the framework for Communityaction in the field of public health in respect of pollution-related diseases. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 29/04/1999. It should be noted that the decision is accompanied by 3 declarations: 1) the first (interinstitutional) declares that the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission will pay particular attention, among the priority issues to be addressed within the framework of the future programme on public health, to rare diseases and pollution-related diseases and will duly take account of the budgetary implications; 2) the second provides an undertaking from the Commission that, in implementing the aspects concerning the provision of information on the programme on pollution-related diseases, the Commission will endeavour to give priority support to initiatives embracing the competent authorities of the Member States and the professionals concerned; 3) the third declaration provides an undertaking from the Commission to inform the European Parliament annually on the decisions taken to implement the programme.

Public health: Programme of Community action 1999-2003 on pollution-related diseases

1997/0153(COD) - 11/03/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Christian CABROL (UPE, F), the European Parliament welcomed the adoption of a programme to combat pollution-related diseases, but took the view that its scope was too limited. It called in particular for the programme not to be confined to respiratory diseases and allergies but to deal, more generally, with pollution-related diseases, stressing in particular that the diseases concerned must be defined clearly. Parliament called for the programme to pave the way for priority action by the Community in this field after the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty, and for the current programme to: -contribute to the realization of Community-wide epidemiological studies and the setting up in the Member States of a registration system for pollution-related health complaints to increase knowledge of the impact of certain pollutants, -improve knowledge of behaviour patterns, ways of life and eating habits that could reduce the health risks caused by pollution, -promote actions to improve the level of knowledge of the general public about the impact of the various different policies on pollution and health. Parliament called for the appropriation for the programme for the period 1999-2003 to be increased to ECU 14 million.

Public health: Programme of Community action 1999-2003 on pollution-related diseases

1997/0153(COD) - 04/06/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: the purpose of the proposal is to establish a programme on diseases caused, provoked or aggravated by environmental pollution, for the period from 01.01.1999 to 31.12.2003. The programme aims to contribute towards ensuring a high level of human health protection in relation to these diseases by improving knowledge and understanding of the associated health risks and the way to tackle some of them (especially asthma and allergies). SUBSTANCE: the following actions are eligible under the programme: 1) Actions to improve information on pollution-related diseases (better understanding of the role of pollutants in the causation or aggravation of diseases): .identification of diseases in which pollutants play a role; comparison of prevalence and/or incidence; examination of quality of existing data and identification of any gaps in knowledge; studying the toxicology of pollutants; comparison of data and definition of criteria used, including informing the public, .improving the comparability of data used in preventive actions by means of exchanges of information; 2) Actions concerned with risk perception with respect to pollution-related diseases: .support for actions aimed at achieving better public understanding of risks, their assessment and management; promoting work on the public perceptions of pollution-related risks to health, .promoting actions concerning methods of increasing the level of knowledge of the general public and opinion-formers about pollution-related risks; 3) Actions concerned with respiratory diseases and allergies (support for activities aimed at reducing the prevalence and/or incidence of these diseases): .improving the provision of information to the general public and to specific groups on these diseases and the agents that play a role in them; contributing to the development of ways of improving the coordination of information campaigns; contributing to the efforts of self-help or support groups active in the field of respiratory diseases and allergies, .contributing to the comparison of various education and training initiatives used to combat these diseases, with a view to promoting best practice; reviewing the effectiveness of the preventive measures taken. Implementation: the Commission is to implement the programme in close cooperation with Member States. It will cooperate with institutions active in the field in question. It will be assisted by an advisory committee consisting of representatives of the Member States; Consistency and complementarity: the programme must be implemented so as to complement other relevant Community actions and to be consistent with them; International cooperation: the programme is open for participation by the associated countries of Central Europe and Cyprus and Malta. Cooperation with third countries and international organizations with a public health remit is also to be sought; Monitoring and assessment: the Commission is responsible for monitoring and assessing the programme continuously. It is to submit an evaluation report to Parliament and the Council during the 3rd year of operation. A final report will also be submitted to Parliament and the Council at the end of the programme; Budget: ECU 1.3 m for the first year (1999) (the financial framework for the four subsequent years will be decided after the adoption of the next financial perspective).

Public health: Programme of Community action 1999-2003 on pollution-related diseases

1997/0153(COD) - 15/04/1998 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission's amended proposal adopting a programme of action on pollution-related diseases incorporated 4 of the 12 amendments adopted by Parliament at first reading. These concerned: -the definition of pollution-related diseases, -improving knowledge of the long-term effects of certain pollutants, -the way in which pollution-related diseases may be influenced by behaviour and life style, -the implementation of actions to improve the level of knowledge of specific groups about the impact of different policies on pollution and health. The amendments not incorporated concerned, in particular, the budgetary provisions proposed by Parliament (increasing the allocation) and extending the scope of the programme. The other amendments not incorporated made reference to the Amsterdam Treaty, which has not yet been ratified.

Public health: Programme of Community action 1999-2003 on pollution-related diseases

1997/0153(COD) - 11/06/1998 - Commission communication on Council's position

In its opinion on the common position of the Council concerning the programme of action on pollution-related diseases, the Commission indicates that it can only partially endorse the Council's text, for the following reasons: 1) the limits on the duration and scope of the programme: the Commission regrets that the Council has deleted from the programme the entire section concerning prevention of respiratory diseases and allergies despite the fact that millions of people in Europe suffer from such respiratory complaints or pollution-related allergies. The Commission considers it important to launch without delay a Community action to prevent these diseases, in relation to which policies, measures and good practices already exist. It particularly deplores the limiting of the programme to improving information and awareness of these diseases; 2) international cooperation: in the Commission's

opinion, the reference to Article 228 of the TEU is not legally appropriate, as this article is the basis solely for the conclusion of international agreements and not for technical cooperation in the context of an agreed programme; 3) monitoring and evaluation: in the Commission's view, it is not possible to submit an evaluation report during the third year of the programme, given that according to the wishes expressed by the Council this would be its final year. The Commission considers that most of the actions which will have a genuine effect will take more than a year to make their mark. A proper evaluation would therefore need to be performed well after the end of the programme. By way of conclusion, the Commission says that, while accepting the common position of the Council, it wishes a statement to be entered in the minutes of the Council concerning these various points and the fact that the programme is of an evolutive character. The Commission believes that the programme ought rather to comprise a first series of actions in the field of pollution-related diseases.

Public health: Programme of Community action 1999-2003 on pollution-related diseases

1997/0153(COD) - 29/10/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee endorses the action programme because it is well reasoned and the proposed measures are clearly set out. It is also timely, well-founded and provides for a major Community contribution to the measures being taken in the field of public health. In addition, and even if there is already a large body of information on pollution-related diseases, the programme will yield necessary added value. The Committee would highlight the importance of cooperation with national authorities, the European Environment Agency, the WHO and third countries; and to acknowledge the work that the USA Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has carried out in the field of risk assessment and management with respect to pollution related-diseases. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work, the Committee urges the Commission to ensure that the proposed measures are consistent with and complementary to actions envisaged under the health monitoring programme and any other Community action relevant to pollution-related diseases. In the view of the Committee, it would be desirable if the Commission could put forward at least an outline of the funding requirements for the years 2000-2003, and if the budgetary authorities could ensure that such requirements were subsequently met.

Public health: Programme of Community action 1999-2003 on pollution-related diseases

1997/0153(COD) - 15/01/1999 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

In presenting its amended proposal, the Commission has incorporated 2 of the 14 amendments adopted by the European Parliament. These refer to: - changes in objectives on the basis of evaluating during the course of the programme; - introducing promotion of knowledge of behaviour and lifestyles to reduce health risks. The Commission has rejected the remaining amendments which: - delete the recital referring to "light comitology"; - change the focus of the programme away from development of policy to inter alia a public information programme. The Commission considers that this would weaken its impact greatly; - impose a requirement on the Commission to take necessary measures to ensure consistency and complementarity with other Community programmes and notify these after six months. The Commission considers that it would be virtually impossible to identify all the other policy areas concerned, and equally impossible to "take necessary measures" and to notify them six months afterwards; - increase the budget to 7 MECU from 3.9 MECU and require an evaluation report at the end of the programme, rather than in its third year. The Commission considers that these amendments imply that the programme might last beyond the 3-year period planned; - require the Commission, on the basis of the evaluation report, to submit proposals for specific measures to be taken as it imposes unjustified obligations on the Commission; - introduce the idea of a contribution to the realization of Community-wide epidemiological studies, as the nature, duration, financial resources and scope of the programme are not such as to allow the meaningful support of such studies; - shorten the title of an annex heading, as the suggested revised title would not correctly reflect its contents.

Public health: Programme of Community action 1999-2003 on pollution-related diseases

1997/0153(COD) - 08/10/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mr Christian CABROL (UPE, F), the European Parliament amended the common position of the Council, reinstating most of the amendments adopted at first reading, particularly: -the financial framework: the Council had limited this to ECU 3.9 million for the period 1999-2001 (rather than 1999-2003); Parliament called for the amount to be increased to 7 million for the same period; -the scope of the programme: the programme was to cover pollution-related diseases and allergies in order to improve knowledge and understanding of health risks; an annex was to be inserted indicating the actions to be supported in this context (information campaigns to prevent these diseases, health education, etc.); -specific measures: coordinated epidemiological studies to be carried out throughout the territory of the EU to improve knowledge of the specific impact of certain pollutants, support for measures to improve public understanding of pollution-related health risks, promotion of behaviour patterns, ways of life and eating habits that could reduce the health risks caused by various types of pollution. Parliament also stressed the forward-looking nature of the programme: on the basis of a final report evaluating the programme, the Commission was to submit to the Council and the European Parliament any appropriate proposals for combating pollution-related diseases.

Public health: Programme of Community action 1999-2003 on pollution-related diseases

1997/0153(COD) - 30/04/1998 - Council position

In its common position on the programme of action on pollution-related diseases, the Council substantially amended the Commission's proposal, limiting both the duration and the scope of the programme. It took the view that the current situation with regard to Community action in the field of public health and budgetary constraints made it necessary to proceed by stages in the field of pollution-related diseases, and therefore: -limited the programme to three years (1999-2001 rather than 2003), stating that the budget for it should be ECU 3.9 m for this period; -limited the general scope of the programme, confining the actions to be undertaken to efforts to improve public information and awareness concerning pollution-related diseases and the effectiveness of prevention in this field: the Commission's emphasis on training, information campaigns and assistance to autonomous groups active in the field of respiratory diseases and allergies vanished entirely from the programme. The Council inserted a reference to Article 228 of the TEU in connection with international cooperation under the programme - this Article implying the conclusion of international agreements rather than technical cooperation as called for by the Commission. The Council called for an evaluation report to be submitted at the end of the 3rd year - a point at which, according to the Council's own wish, the programme would barely have been completed. As regards the Council's treatment of Parliament's amendments, only 2 of the 4 which the Commission had included in its amended proposal survived: -one concerning improving knowledge of the long-term impact of certain pollutants, -one concerning the implementation of actions to improve work on public perception of health risks associated with pollution-related diseases and the impact of the policies adopted. Parliament's amendments concerning the definition of pollution-related diseases and seeking to extend the actions relating to the general public were rejected by the Council.