Basic information

1998/0333(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	Procedure completed
Atmospheric pollution, air quality: limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide CO (direct. 96/62/EEC) Repealed by 2005/0183(COD) **Subject** 3.70.02 Atmospheric pollution, motor vehicle pollution	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	BREYER Hiltrud (V)	21/01/1999

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	BREYER Hiltrud (V)	21/01/1999

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2254	2000-04-10
Agriculture and Fisheries	2300	2000-10-23
Environment	2207	1999-10-12
Environment	2235	1999-12-13

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
01/12/1998	Legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0591	Summary
12/03/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
12/10/1999	Debate in Council		

16/11/1999	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
16/11/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0065/1999	
01/12/1999	Debate in Parliament		
02/12/1999	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0131/1999	Summary
10/04/2000	Council position published	05860/1/2000	Summary
11/04/2000	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0223	Summary
13/04/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
20/06/2000	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
20/06/2000	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0166/2000	
05/07/2000	Debate in Parliament		
06/07/2000	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0320/2000	Summary
23/10/2000	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
16/11/2000	Final act signed		
16/11/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/12/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/0333(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Amendments and repeals	Repealed by 2005/0183(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/12680

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0065/1999 OJ C 194 11.07.2000, p. 0004	16/11/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0131/1999 OJ C 194 11.07.2000, p. 0015-0056	02/12/1999	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0166/2000 OJ C 121 24.04.2001, p. 0010	20/06/2000	
		T5-0320/2000		

Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		OJ C 121 24.04.2001, p. 0164-0385	06/07/2000	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	05860/1/2000 OJ C 195 11.07.2000, p. 0001	10/04/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1998)0591 OJ C 053 24.02.1999, p. 0008	01/12/1998	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2000)0223 OJ C 274 26.09.2000, p. 0091 E	11/04/2000	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(2000)0662	13/04/2000	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(2000)0525	04/08/2000	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0333/1999 OJ C 138 18.05.1999, p. 0042	25/03/1999	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Directive 2000/0069
OJ L 313 13.12.2000, p. 0012 Summary

Atmospheric pollution, air quality: limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide CO (direct. 96/62/EEC)

1998/0333(COD) - 02/12/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The Parliament adopted its report drafted by Ms. Hiltrud BREYER (Green, D) on the Commission's proposal on limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air. The Parliament introduced a number of amendments of which the main ones are: - Member States may maintain or introduce more stringent protective measures in order to protect the health of sensitive populations such as children and hospital patients and may provide that limit values are observed by an earlier date than that provided for in this Directive; - a new recital that states that given benzene os a carcinogenic, genotoxic product for humans, there is no threshold value below which it poses no threat for human health; - a new recital recognising tthat air pollution in enclosed spaces may constitute a substantial source of contamination through benzene and volatile organic compounds; - a new recital urging that information on the measured levels of benzene and carbon monoxide concentrations should be forwarded to the Commissionas a basis for regular reports; - information on concentrations should also be made available using telex, internet, telephone or fax and a list of the notified organisations should be forwarded to the Commission; - information on ambient concentrations of carbon monoxide shall be updated at least on a daily basis or, where feasible, on an hourly basis; - the Commission's report to the EP and the Council on the experience acquired in the application of this Directive should pay particular attention to sensitive populations, as well as review to what extent the limit value for benzene should be recued; - the Commission should propose an action programme on air pollution in enclosed spaces as a complement to Community legislation on outside air; - Member States, before 31.12.2001, shall provide information on the location and number of sampling points and the reference measurement techniques and reference modelling techniques; - in Annex IV, the Parliament adds to the 5th indent, 3rd subindent by requiring that, for benzene, inlets should be no more than 5 metres from the kerbside; - in Annex V, the EP adds that at least half and not less than one of the sampling points should be traffic-orientated and at least one should be urban-background-orientated; - lastly, the Parliament, in Annex VI (1) introduces a new paragraph that states that, for benzene, Member States may apply random measurement instead of continuous measurement if they can demonstrate to the Commission that the accuracy, including the uncertainty due to random sampling, meets the data quality objective of 25% set for continuous measurement.

Atmospheric pollution, air quality: limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide CO (direct. 96/62/EEC)

1998/0333(COD) - 06/07/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament in its second reading recommended by Hiltrud BREYER (Greens/EFA, Germany) on benzene and carbon monoxide in air pollution adopted the Council's common position. A slight amendment was made, asking for research to take air pollution in enclosed spaces into account, as well as that in outside air.

Atmospheric pollution, air quality: limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide CO (direct. 96/62/EEC)

1998/0333(COD) - 16/11/2000 - Final act

PURPOSE : to fix for the first time the limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air. COMMUNTY MEASURE : Directive 2000/69/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. CONTENT : the Directive provides a limit value for benzene of 5¿g/m· to be attained by 1/1/2010 and a limit value of 10mg/m· for carbon monoxide to be attained by 1/1/2005. In order to reach these objectives, it is necessary to reduce benzene emissions by 70% and carbon monoxide emissions by one third. It should also be noted that the Council approved the European Parliament's amendment which introduces the request to take pollution in enclosed spaces into account when the Directive is updated in 2004. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 13/12/2000. DEADLINE SET FOR TRANSPOSITION : 13/12/2002.

Atmospheric pollution, air quality: limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide CO (direct. 96/62/EEC)

1998/0333(COD) - 11/04/2000 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission's amended proposal contains four amendments formulated to bring the text of current proposal in line with the Directive 1999/30/EC. Another four amendments respond to the Parliament's first reading by extending Member States' obligations to forward information on assessments and concentrations to the public and the Commission. Two amendments give due consideration to the health risks related to benzene which is a genotoxic carcinogenic. The amendments not accepted include the following: -those amendments which refer to indoor air quality, since the scope of the proposal is restricted to ambient air which is defined as outdoor air only in the framework Directive 96/62/EC. -The amendment to the siting requirements are not in accordance with general technical advice and are not compatible with daughter Directive 1999/30/EC. -The Commission considers the possibility of derogations from the directive as necessary, but extensions may be limited to five years and the conditions for derogations should be made clear and explicitly tightened.

Atmospheric pollution, air quality: limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide CO (direct. 96/62/EEC)

1998/0333(COD) - 04/08/2000 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

The Commission accepts the Parliament's amendment on second reading. Though the Directive exclusively addresses ambient air, the Commission agrees that all aspects of health effects should be considered under the review.

Atmospheric pollution, air quality: limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide CO (direct. 96/62/EEC)

1998/0333(COD) - 13/04/2000 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Commission agrees with the text of the common position, which takes into account most of the concerns Parliament expressed during its first reading without weakening the Commission's original proposal. In particular, concerning the possibility of derogations from the general deadline for meeting the limit value of benzene, the Commission considers the text to be an acceptable compromise. It provides flexibility in the absence of good data on present day concentrations of benzene whilst ensuring that extensions cannot be granted unless it is clearly demonstrated that they are essential.

Atmospheric pollution, air quality: limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide CO (direct. 96/62/EEC)

1998/0333(COD) - 10/04/2000 - Council position

The Council's common position has adopted fully or partly all but one of the European Parliament amendments accepted by the Commission. The one not accepted is amendment 11. The most significant innovations introduced by the Council relate to the possibility of granting one time-limited extension to Member states. An addition to the recital explains the reason. Article 3 restricts the single time-limited extension to 5 years and has provided for a series of strict criteria to be met and full justification to be given. In particular, the Council has added an upper ceiling of 10ug/m cubed to the concentration limit value where such an extension may be granted. The Council has changed the original commission proposal in that it has deleted the requirements that the Commission propose an absolute limit to the length of any further extensions which may be agreed under Article 3. Any proposals for a review of the Directive, which could include further extensions to the timetable for meeting benzene limit values as set out in Annex I, accompanying possibly the Commission's report of 2004, are subject to the condition of maintaining a high level of protection of human health and environment.

Atmospheric pollution, air quality: limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide CO (direct. 96/62/EEC)

1998/0333(COD) - 01/12/1998 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to present a proposal for a Council directive relating to limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air. CONTENT: the proposal fixes limit values including attainment dates for benzene and carbon monoxide, gives requirements for assessment of concentrations, and provides for the dissemination of information about the pollutants to the public. In preparing the ground for this proposal, account was taken of the requirements for such daughter legislation set out in the Air Quality Framework Directive. Based on the framework directive's four objectives, the objectives of the current proposal are to: - establish limit values for concentrations of benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air intended to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole; - assess concentrations of benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air on the basis of common methods and criteria; - obtain adequate information on concentrations of benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air and ensure that it is made available to the public; - maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases with respect to benzene and carbon monoxide. For benzene, the limit value is set at 5µg/m· averaged over a calendar year with a margin of tolerance of 5µg/m· (100%) on the Directive's entry into force, reducing on 1/1/2003 and every year thereafter by equal annual percentages to reach 0% by 1/1/2010 (date of attainment). Exceptionally, extensions may be agreed for periods of up to five years for areas where it can be demonstrated that meeting the limit value for benzene by 2010 would cause severe socio-economic difficulties. For carbon monoxide, the limit value is set at 10mg/m· averaged over eight hours (on a rolling basis) with a margin of tolerance of 5mg/m· (50%) on the Directive's entry into force, reducing on 1/1/2003 and every year thereafter by equal annual percentages to reach 0% by 1/1/2005 (date of attainment). The Commission considers it inappropriate to establish alert thresholds for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air and so has made no provision for these in its proposal. With regard to the assessment of concentrations of these two air pollutants, thresholds are established to determine the methods of assessment (continuous measurement, indicative measurement, modelling, objective assessment) to be used in an agglomeration or other zone. Provision is also made for the siting of measurement points. If information from measurement stations is the sole source of data reported to the Commission from a zone or agglomeration, a minimum number of stations is specified. However, the framework directive enables other methods to be used, even in zones and agglomerations where continuous measurement is mandatory. Where a full analysis has been carried out the number of continuous stations required depends on the overall quality of the information available. Until the CEN has completed its new harmonised standards for air quality measurement, the present proposal carries forwardthe existing reference methods for benzene and carbon monoxide. Member States are required to supply regular and up-to-date information about benzene and carbon monoxide to the public and appropriate organisations. The Commission must produce a report to Council and the European Parliament no later than 31/12/2004 on implementation of the directive and progress in understanding of the pollutants with which it deals, with particular attention to research into their effects on human health.