Basic information

1999/0067(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	Procedure completed
Air pollution : national emission ceilings for pollutant gas (SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs) Repealed by 2013/0443(COD) **Subject** 3.70.02 Atmospheric pollution, motor vehicle pollution	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DELE EP Delegation to Conciliation Committee	MYLLER Riitta (PSE)	06/04/2001

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	MYLLER Riitta (PSE)	14/09/1999
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	MYLLER Riitta (PSE)	20/11/2000

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	PURVIS John (PPE-DE)	04/10/1999

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2371	2001-09-27
Environment	2278	2000-06-22
Environment	2302	2000-11-07
Environment	2235	1999-12-13
Environment	2334	2001-03-08
Environment	2207	1999-10-12
Environment	2253	2000-03-30
Culture	2361	2001-06-21

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Environment	

Key events			
Date	**Event**	**Reference**	**Summary**
09/06/1999	Legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0125	Summary
23/07/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
12/10/1999	Debate in Council		
13/12/1999	Debate in Council		
23/02/2000	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
23/02/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0063/2000	
14/03/2000	Debate in Parliament		
15/03/2000	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0102/2000	Summary
30/03/2000	Debate in Council		Summary
07/11/2000	Council position published	10674/1/2000	Summary
16/11/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
27/02/2001	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
27/02/2001	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0067/2001	
13/03/2001	Debate in Parliament		
14/03/2001	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0134/2001	Summary
21/06/2001	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
25/06/2001	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		
03/07/2001	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A5-0292/2001	
04/07/2001	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		Summary
02/08/2001	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3641/2001	
19/09/2001	Debate in Parliament		
20/09/2001	Decision by Parliament, 3rd reading	T5-0470/2001	Summary
27/09/2001	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
23/10/2001	Final act signed		
23/10/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/11/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/0067(COD)

Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Amendments and repeals	Repealed by 2013/0443(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/5/14630

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0063/2000 OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0005	23/02/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0102/2000 OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0048-0159	15/03/2000	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0067/2001	27/02/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0134/2001 OJ C 343 05.12.2001, p. 0104-0160	14/03/2001	Summary
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading		A5-0292/2001	03/07/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading		T5-0470/2001 OJ C 077 28.03.2002, p. 0019-0090 E	20/09/2001	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	10674/1/2000 OJ C 375 28.12.2000, p. 0001	07/11/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1999)0125	09/06/1999	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(1999)2004	29/11/1999	
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(2000)1936	10/11/2000	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(2001)0243	25/04/2001	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1118/1999 OJ C 051 23.02.2000, p. 0011	08/12/1999	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0358/1999 OJ C 317 06.11.2000, p. 0035	14/06/2000	
CSL/EP	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3641/2001	02/08/2001	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Directive 2001/0081
OJ L 309 27.11.2001, p. 0022 Summary

Air pollution : national emission ceilings for pollutant gas (SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs)

1999/0067(COD) - 30/03/2000

The Council held a further policy debate on two proposals for Directives, one on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants (sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxides, volatile organic compounds and ammonia) and the other on ozone in ambient air. During the debate, Ministers replied to three questions asked by the Presidency: - whether Member States were willing to go further than the reductions in emissions accepted in the framework of the Gothenburg Protocol; - whether the possible willingness of countries applying for memberships of the EU go beyond the reductions set in the Protocol should be taken into account when calculating emission ceilings; - whether Member States were committed to the interim targets for ozone reduction. In their contributions, a large majority of delegations supported the Presidency in its intention to push work forward in this area, particularly on emission ceilings, and to reach political agreement at the Council meeting in June. Several Ministers observed that the ceilings set by the Gothenburg Protocol seemed to be insufficient and said that they would be prepared to go further. Other stressed that the need to keep ceilings agreed in the Protocol for the time being, and then to adopt more ambitious ceilings when it was revised in 2004. In this context they commented on the considerable effort, particularly in financial terms, which was already necessary to achieve the ceilings set by the Gothenburg Protocol, and also on the need for a balance between environmental benefits and the financial costs entailed by the measures to be adopted. However, some Ministers said that they were prepared to accept more ambitious ceilings, while pointing out the need for progress in discussions on the Directive on large combustion plants and the need to develop Community legislation in certain areas which might affect the emission levels of pollutants covered by the proposal. Several delegations believe that additional effort would be needed from the countries applying for membership, over and above what they had accepted in the Gothenburg Protocol, while recognising the difficulties which they might have in this respect. Some Member States suggested that this question should be handled when the Directive was reviewed in 2004.

Air pollution : national emission ceilings for pollutant gas (SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs)

1999/0067(COD) - 25/04/2001 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

On 14 March 2001 the European Parliament adopted 9 amendments. 1 amendment has been accepted by the Commission in full, 2 have been accepted in part or in principle. The remaining amendments cannot be accepted. With regard to the amendments accepted by the Commission, these relate to: - emissions from shipping and emissions from aircraft. In general, emissions from international shipping are best tackled by action in the International Maritime Organisation and from aircraft by action within the International Civil Aviation Organisation. The amendments accepted in principle by the Commission concern: - the addition of a new recital noting the importance of emissions from shipping and referring to the requirements

of article 7(3) of Directive 1999/32/EC of 26 April 1999 relating to the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels; - bringing forward by the end of 2001 proposals for economic instruments designed to meet the objectives of the present proposal. The Commission will look at the scope for using economic instruments when it reviews the Directive in 2004 and 2008 in accordance with Article 9. The Commission can therefore accept this amendment in principle and in part by replacing Parliament's wording with "the possible use of economic instruments". As regards the amendments not accepted by the Commission, there relate to: - national emission ceilings; - reinstating in Annex I the emission ceilings originally proposed by the Commission for sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds; - the deletion of the word "broadly" from the chapeau of Article 5 in the Common Position; - the deletion of the requirement for the Commission to review the extent to which further emission reductions might be necessary to meet the interim environmental objectives set out in Article 5 of the proposal when it reports to Parliament and Council in 2004 and 2008. As explained above, both the emission ceilings of Council's Common Position and of the Common Position as amended by Parliament fall short of those needed to meet interim environmental objectives. The Commission cannot therefore accept the amendment; - setting dates for meeting the long term objectives of no exceedance of critical loads and levels for acidification and eutrophication and no exceedance of WHO guidelines for ozone.

Air pollution : national emission ceilings for pollutant gas (SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs)

1999/0067(COD) - 08/03/2001

The Council took note of an intervention by the Netherlands delegation which expressed concern that the proposed national emission ceilings (NEC) for oxides of nitrogen (NOx) are probably not enough to comply with the air quality limit values for nitrogen dioxide (NO2) laid down in Council Directive 1999/30/EC. This delegation therefore appealed to the Commission to come forward with an amendment to Directive 1999/30/EC either at the time of the envisaged review in 2003 or earlier. The Netherlands delegation also called on the Commission to take measures on Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) to enable the realisation of the VOC-ceilings in the framework of the NEC Directive currently in second reading before the European Parliament. In this context the Council also took note of the intention of the Commission to present, inter alia, a communication on the CAFE (Clean Air for Europe) programme.

Air pollution : national emission ceilings for pollutant gas (SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs)

1999/0067(COD) - 10/11/2000 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Commission is able to accept the common position, which was agreed unanimously by the Council. The Commission considers that Council's commitment to meeting the interim objectives of the proposal by 2010 has been clearly signalled by its acceptance of Parliament's amendment moving those objectives from an Annex to Article 5.

Air pollution : national emission ceilings for pollutant gas (SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs)

1999/0067(COD) - 14/03/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Riitta MYLLER (PES, FIN) subject to amendments. (Please refer to the previous text).

Air pollution : national emission ceilings for pollutant gas (SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs)

1999/0067(COD) - 15/03/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament has adopted the report by Mrs. P. Myller (PES, Fin) concerning a proposal for the European Parliament and Council Directive on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants. This report was subject to amendments which concern: - the need to establish rules for the most important sources of emissions of ozone precursors which are the subject of internal market rules and for products which are freely traded on the internal market and which, when used, produce significant emissions of ozone precursors; - the submission, from the Commission, without delay of the overdue proposals amending emission rules for two- and three- wheeled vehicles and emission rules for mobile machinery and appliances to take account of the latest technology. Provision should also be made for emission rules for new appliances with small motors (e.g. power saws and lawnmowers). The Commission should also propose as soon as possible Community rules laying down conditions for the placing on the market of products containing VOC for the commercial and private sectors in order to reduce non-industrial emissions of VOC; - the inclusion of the progress made by inter alia by the accession candidate countries; - with regard to the limit emissions of acidifying and eutrophication pollutants an ozone precursors: there is a long-term objective set for 2015 whereby in principle the critical loads must not be exceeded in any part of the Community witht he final target of no exceedance of critical levels and loads in the year 2020; - the Commission shall report to the European parliament and Council on progress in the implementation of the national emission ceilings in 2003 and 2007. In 2011, the Commission shall report to the EP and the Council on compliance with the ceilings and on progress in relation to the interim environmental objectives. In addition, the European Parliament stated that, in light of the progress towards attaining the emission ceilings by the year 2010, scientific and technical progress, the situation regarding the overstepping of the critical load limits and the WHO's guidelines values for air pollution, and having regard to other factors referred to in

Article 9(1), the Commission shall carry out a review of this Directive, including further investigation of the estimated costs and benefit of emission ceilings, and, at the latest before the end of the year 2004, shall propose amendments to this Directive, including proposals for amendments to the emission ceilings, environmental objectives, proposals for measures to ensure compliance with the emission ceilings, and proposals for further reductions in emissions.

Air pollution : national emission ceilings for pollutant gas (SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs)

1999/0067(COD) - 07/11/2000 - Council position

The Council's common position, whilst maintaining the approach proposed by the Commission moves, in line with one of the European Parliament's amendments, the proposed interim environmental objectives from an Annex into Article 5 of the proposal. In total, the Council has adopted the 8 European Parliament amendments accepted, fully or in part, by the Commission. The major difference between the Commission's proposal and the common position of the Council is in the numerical values of the national emissions ceilings. Council has accepted the interim environmental objectives for 2010 which the emission ceilings proposed by the Commission were designed to meet. However, as far as emission ceilings were concerned Council felt it was necessary to take a stepwise approach; committing now only to emission reductions which they felt certain of achieving, and making clear that the aim of review in 2004 would be to try and bridge the gap in the light of further information available by then. In line with Parliament's opinion, the common position incorporates an amendment which refers to the need to take account of the effects of any new Community legislation relating to relevant sources of emissions when implementation of the Directive is reviewed. Furthermore, it is indicated that the Commission will examine further the need for harmonised Community measures for the most relevant economic sectors and products contributing to acidification, eutrophication and ground level ozone. Furthermore, the common position incorporates an amendment proposed by the Parliament which relates to the need to take into account the progress in the accession candidate countries. On the other hand, the common position did not accept amendments relating in particular to the dates for meeting the long term objectives for no exceedance of critical loads for acidification and of critical levels for ozone; including emissions from international maritime traffic and from aircraft beyond the landing and take-off cycle in national emission ceilings; the revision of the definition of "volatile organic compound" to be in line with that in the Solvents Directive and bring forward the dates of interim reviews and the final report.

Air pollution : national emission ceilings for pollutant gas (SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs)

1999/0067(COD) - 23/10/2001 - Final act

PURPOSE : to limit emissions of acidifying an eutrophying pollutants and ozone precursors in order to improve the protection in the Community of the environment and human health. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Directive 2001/81/EC of the European Parliament and Council on national emissions ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants. CONTENT : this aim of this Directive is to limit emissions of acidifying an eutrophying pollutants and ozone precursors in order to improve the protection in the Community of the environment and human health against risks of adverse effects from acidification, soil eutrophication and ground-level ozone and to move towards the long-term objectives of not exceeding critical levels and loads and of effective protection of all people against recognised health risks from air pollution by establishing national emission ceilings, taking the years 2010 and 2020 as benchmarks. This Directive covers emissions in the territory of the Member States and their exclusive economic zones from all sources of pollutants which arise from human activities (SO2, NOx, VOC, NH3). It does not cover: - emissions from international maritime traffic; - aircraft emissions beyond the landing and take-off cycle; - for Spain, emissions in the Canary Islands; - for Portugal, emissions in Madeira and the Azores. Member States shall, by 1 October 2002 at the latest, draw up programmes for the progressive reduction of national emissions of the pollutants referred to above with the aim of complying at least with national emission ceilings by 2010 at the latest. These shall be updated as necessary by 1 October 2006. In 2004 and 2008 the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on progress on the implementation of the national emission ceilings and on the extent to which the interim environmental objectives set are likely to be by 2010 and on the extent to which the long-term objectives set out could be met by 2020. This report shall include an economic assessment, including cost-effectiveness, benefits, an assessment of marginal costs and benefits and the socio-economic impact of the implementation of the national emission ceilings on particular Member States and sectors. Moreover, in 2012 the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on compliance with the ceilings and on progress in relation to the interim environmental objectives and the long-term objectives. In the review to be completed in 2004 an evaluation will be carried out of the indicative emission ceilings for the Community as a whole. To promote the achievement of the objective of this Directive, the Commission and the Member States shall pursue bilateral and multilateral cooperation with third countries and relevant international organisations. With regard to the reports concerning ship and aircraft emissions, by the end of 2002, the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the extent to which emissions from international maritime traffic contribute to acidification, eutrophication and the formation of ground-level ozone within the Community. By the end of 2004, the Commission shall report on the extent to which emissions from aircraft beyond the landing and take-off cycle contribute toacidification, eutrophication and the formation of ground-level ozone within the Community. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive before 27 November 2002. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 27/11/2001.

Air pollution : national emission ceilings for pollutant gas (SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs)

1999/0067(COD) - 09/06/1999 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: the setting of national ceilings for emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and ammonia with a view to remedying the problems of acidification, trophospheric ozone and soil eutrophication. CONTENT: The central feature is the ceilings set for emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and ammonia in each Member State. These ceilings are to be complied with by 2010 at the latest. Member States are required to draw up programmes for the progressive reduction of their annual national emissions and report them to the Commission before the end of 2002. the programmes are to be updated and revised by 2006. Member States are required to prepare and regularly update national emission inventories and emission projections for 2010 for SO2, NOx, VOC and NH3. These inventories and projections must be reported to the Commission each year. In combination with the national programmes, the inventories will provide essential input on progress towards the ceilings, and will show whether Member States are complying with their ceilings. The Commission must report at regular intervals (2004, 2008 and 2012) to Parliament and the Council on progress in the implementation of the ceilings and towards attaining the interim environmental objectives. These reports must include an economic assessment, including cost-effectiveness, benefits, an assessment of marginal costs and benefits, impact on competitiveness, and the expected socio-economic impact in the different Member States of the implementation of the national emission ceilings. They will also consider the limitations applied to the scope of the Directive. In addition to Member States' reports, as described above, the Commission will take account of and explore other aspects relevant to these reports, such as: - emission reductions and reduction commitments by non-Community countries; - the enlargement process; - new Community legislation and any international regulations concerning ship emissions; - new technical and scientific data; - assessment of current and projected exceedance of critical loads and of the World Health Organisation's guideline values for tropospheric ozone; - new livestock projections reflecting developments in the Common Agricultural Policy; - new energy forecasts reflecting the actions taken by the Member States to comply with the Kyoto Agreement; - the identification of an interim objective for reducing soil eutrophication. The Commission's reports will, if appropriate, be accompanied by proposals for modifications of the national emission ceilings of the proposed directive, for measures to ensure compliance with the ceilings, and for possible further emission reductions.

Air pollution : national emission ceilings for pollutant gas (SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs)

1999/0067(COD) - 20/09/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution on the joint text. This resolution sets tight national ceilings to be met by Member States for four key atmospheric pollutants. In a victory for Parliament, 2020 is set as the benchmark date for achieving the long-term goal of keeping within critical limits and protecting people against the health risks caused by air pollution. 2010 is the interim target date for achieving the binding limits set out for each Member State. Lastly, the Commission shall report in 2004 and 2008 on the progress being made in meeting the targets. It must also examine the pollution caused by aviation and shipping.