Basic information

2000/2297(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Environment and human health: impact of polyvinyl chloride PVC. Green paper **Subject** 3.40.01 Chemical industry, fertilizers, plastics 3.70.13 Dangerous substances, toxic and radioactive wastes (storage, transport) 4.60.04.02 Consumer security	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	SACCONI Guido (PSE)	10/10/2000

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	SEPPÄNEN Esko (GUE/NGL)	05/12/2000

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2289	2000-09-28

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
26/07/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0469	Summary
28/09/2000	Debate in Council		
29/11/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/03/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
20/03/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0092/2001	

02/04/2001	Debate in Parliament		
03/04/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0171/2001	Summary
03/04/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/01/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2297(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/5/13515

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0092/2001	20/03/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0171/2001 OJ C 021 24.01.2002, p. 0025-0112 E	03/04/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0469	26/07/2000	Summary

Environment and human health: impact of polyvinyl chloride PVC. Green paper

2000/2297(COS) - 03/04/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In approving the report presented by Guido SACCONI (PES, I) (please refer to previous document), the European Parliament called on the Commission to propose an amendment to Directive 76/769/EEC with the aim of banning all use of cadmium as a stabiliser in the PVC industry - but no date was added there. The European Parliament also beleives that legislation should be adopted as this cannot be left to the goodwill of the industry within the framework of the voluntary commitment.

Environment and human health: impact of polyvinyl chloride PVC. Green paper

2000/2297(COS) - 26/07/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present the Green Paper on Environmental issues of PVC. CONTENT : the two objectives of this Green Paper are, firstly, to present and assess on a scientific basis, the various environmental issues including related human health aspects that occur during the life cycle of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and secondly, to consider, in view of sustainable development, a number of options to reduce those impacts that need to be addressed. This should serve as a basis for a consultation with stakeholders in order to identify practical solutions to health and environmental issues raised by PVC. The Commision considers, on the basis of the analysis presented in this Green Paper, that the contamination of the environment by lead and cadmium should be avoided as much as possible. The Commission is in favour of a reduction of the use of cadmium and lead as stabilisers in PVC products. A number of measures could be envisaged and should be assessed in the light of their potential enviromental and economic implications: 1) Legislative phase-out or other risk reduction measures for cadmium and/or lead with the possibility of temporary derogations; 2) Implementation of the voluntary commitment of the PVC industry on cadmium; 3) Development of further voluntary commitments for lead. In addition, the use of phthalates in PVC applications raises issues, described above, which could be addressed through a number of measures, including legislative or voluntary risk reduction measures. These potential measures should be assessed in the light of their environmental and economic implications. The Commission considers, on the basis of the analysis in its Green Paper and given the present low recycling rate, that recycling of PVC should be increased. This could be done through a range of measures, which could be used separately or in combination. Their potential environmental and economic implications should be assessed. These potential measures include: 1) Mandatory collection and recycling targets for some relevant PVC waste streams; 2) Voluntary commitment of the industry to improve and finance, totally or partially, the collection and the recycling of some relevant PVC waste streams; 3) Recommendations to Member States with the objective of establishing and developing separate collection of PVC waste and other demolition waste; 4) Development of appropriate standards that allow the use of recycled PVC materials; 5) Marking of plastic products as a useful tool to facilitate the separation of PVC waste from the general waste stream and development of other methods for plastic identification and sorting; 6) Development of innovative recycling processes for certain post-consumer PVC waste. The recycling of PVC waste containing heavy metals raises specific issues due to the potential dilution of heavy metals into new and possibly wider range of products. Some potential measures could be envisaged to address these issues. Thesemeasures should be assessed in the light of their potential environmental and economic implications. They include: 1) Legislative instruments to restrict the mechanical recycling of PVC waste containing lead and cadmium; 2) Specific conditions for this recycling, such a recycling in the same type of application, the control of the placing on the market of recyclates, the marking of the recycled products and the control of the use of heavy metals; 3) No specific conditions for this recycling. As regards the incineration of PVC waste, the Commission considers that this raises a number of issues. A range of measures could be envisaged to address these issues and should be assessed in the light of their potential environmental and economic implications. Finally, the Commission considers that the landfilling of flexible PVC waste raises some issues. A range of measures could be envisaged to address these issues and environmental and economic implications of these measures should be considered. On the basis of the analyses presented in this paper and based on the outcome of the consultation process, the Commission will present at the beginning of 2001 a Communication setting out a comprehensive Community strategy on the environmental issues of PVC.