Basic information

2007/0187(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	Procedure completed
Units of measurement: approximation of the laws of the Member States (amend. Directive 80/181/EEC) **Subject** 2.10.03 Standardisation, EC/EU standards and trade mark, certification, compliance	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	MCCARTHY Arlene (PSE)	01/12/2008

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	MCCARTHY Arlene (PSE)	03/10/2007

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	09/10/2007

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2904	2008-11-18
Agriculture and Fisheries	2884	2008-07-15

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	VERHEUGEN Günter

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/09/2007	Legislative proposal published	COM(2007)0510	Summary

24/09/2007	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
05/11/2007	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
12/11/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A6-0430/2007	
29/11/2007	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T6-0546/2007	Summary
29/11/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
18/11/2008	Council position published	11915/3/2008	Summary
20/11/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
02/12/2008	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
04/12/2008	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A6-0476/2008	
16/12/2008	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T6-0596/2008	Summary
11/03/2009	Final act signed		
11/03/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/05/2009	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2007/0187(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 095
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	IMCO/6/69976

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE396.549	16/10/2007	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0430/2007	12/11/2007	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0546/2007	29/11/2007	Summary
Committee draft report		PE416.353	25/11/2008	
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A6-0476/2008	04/12/2008	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T6-0596/2008	16/12/2008	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

Council position	11915/3/2008	18/11/2008	Summary
Draft final act	03601/2009/LEX	11/03/2009	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2007)0510	10/09/2007	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2007)1136	10/09/2007	
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2007)1137	10/09/2007	
Commission communication on Council's position	COM(2008)0785	19/11/2008	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1694/2007	12/12/2007	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Directive 2009/0003
OJ L 114 07.05.2009, p. 0010 Summary

Units of measurement: approximation of the laws of the Member States (amend. Directive 80/181/EEC)

2007/0187(COD) - 11/03/2009 - Final act

PURPOSE: to update Council Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Directive 2009/3/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement.

CONTENT: this Directive amends Directive 80/181/EEC, which lays down the legal units of measurement within the EU, and is based on the International System of Units (SI) adopted by the General Conference of Weights and Measures set up by the Metre Convention signed in Paris on 20 May 1875.

Directive 80/181/EEC required the United Kingdom and Ireland to fix a date for ending the exemptions, where they are still being applied, in respect of pint for milk in returnable bottles and beer and cider on draught, mile for road signs and speed indications, and troy ounce for transactions in precious metals. However, experience has shown that, given the local character of those exemptions and the limited number of products concerned, the maintenance of the exemptions would not lead to the imposition of a non-tariff barrier to trade, and as a consequence there is no longer a need to put an end to those exemptions

The new provisions are intended to:

- enable the United Kingdom and Ireland to continue to use the limited local exemptions concerning the pint, the mile and the troy ounce where they are still applied;
- extend the scope of the Directive to consumer and environmental protection;
- extend the use of supplementary indications for an unlimited period (the basic Directive provided for their use until the end of 2009). The importance of the use of supplementary indications lies, for instance, in trade with economic partners which do not use the same units of measurement (e.g. the gallon in trade with the United States);
- introduce three new SI derived units: the katal (kat) as a unit for catalytic activity (used in medicine and biochemistry); the radian (rad) as a unit for a plane angle (used in geometry and physics); the steradian (sr) as a unit for a solid angle (used in geometry and physics);
- drop the acre as a land registration measurement unit (as it is no longer used in the United Kingdom and Ireland).

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 27/05/2008.

TRANSPOSITION: 31/12/2009.

APPLICATION: 01/01/2010.

Units of measurement: approximation of the laws of the Member States (amend. Directive 80/181/EEC)

2007/0187(COD) - 29/11/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Arlene **McCARTHY** (PES, UK) and approved the proposal for a directive amending Council Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement.

Units of measurement: approximation of the laws of the Member States (amend. Directive 80/181/EEC)

2007/0187(COD) - 10/09/2007 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to update Council Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement.

PROPOSED ACT: Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council.

BACKGROUND: Directive 80/181/EEC harmonised within the EU the legal units of measurement for expressing quantities, in accordance with the metric “International System of Units” (SI) adopted by the General Conference of Weights and Measures set up by the Metre Convention signed in Paris on 20 May 1875. The SI metric system is recognised under WTO/TBT as the international standard. The Directive ensures a common approach, removing the barriers to trade within the Internal Market due to units of measurement in line with the international standard.

Directive 80/181/EEC requires the United Kingdom and Ireland to fix a date for ending the exemptions, where they are still being applied, in respect of pint for milk in returnable bottles and beer and cider on draught, mile for road signs and speed indications, and troy ounce for transactions in precious metals. However, experience has shown that, given the local character of those exemptions and the limited number of products concerned, the maintenance of the exemptions would not lead to the imposition of a non-tariff barrier to trade, and as a consequence there is no longer a need to put an end to those exemptions

The Directive authorises the use of supplementary indications in addition to the legal units laid down in Chapter I of the Annex to that Directive until 31 December 2009.

CONTENT: following a wide consultation of stakeholders and an impact assessment, the Commission proposes updating the Directive 80/181/EEC to include consumer protection and environment in its scope, to include as a legal unit the new SI unit for catalytic activity (katal) to allow the use of supplementary indications indefinitely and no longer to require the UK and Ireland to end the limited local exemptions for pint, mile and troy ounce where they are still in use.

The exemption of the acre for land registration however is no longer in use, because of changes in administrative procedures in both Member States.

Lastly, the Commission clarifies the scope of the directive as being applicable to all domains covered by the current Treaties. It is therefore no longer necessary to single out certain fields of applicability.

Stakeholders were consulted during the 10-week period up to 1 March 2007. The proposal follows the unanimous recommendation of industry to lift the sundown clause for the United Kingdom and Ireland and to permit indefinitely the use of supplementary indications.

Units of measurement: approximation of the laws of the Member States (amend. Directive 80/181/EEC)

2007/0187(COD) - 16/12/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution approving the Council's common position for adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement. The recommendation for second reading (under the codecision procedure) had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Arlene **McCARTHY** (PES, UK) on behalf of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

Units of measurement: approximation of the laws of the Member States (amend. Directive 80/181/EEC)

2007/0187(COD) - 19/11/2008 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Council supported the Commission’s proposal on condition of a number of technical changes reflecting developments in international standards relating to units of measurement and a clause on reporting, and review if needed, after 10 years.

There were no amendments made by the European Parliament and the Commission supports the common position.

It has made a declaration to CORPEPER on 12.12.2007 as regards the provision by Member States of correlation tables. It states that it recalls its position concerning the creation by Member States of correlation tables linking the transposition measures taken by the Member States with the directive, in the interest of citizens, Better Regulation and transparency and to assist the examination of the conformity of national rules with Community provisions.

In this instance, it does not stand in the way of an agreement at Council with a view to the successful conclusion of the inter-institutional procedure on this file. However, it expects this horizontal matter to be considered jointly by the institutions.

Units of measurement: approximation of the laws of the Member States (amend. Directive 80/181/EEC)

2007/0187(COD) - 18/11/2008 - Council position

The common position of the Council has the same general objectives as the Commission proposal for an amending Directive. The Council, which agrees with the objectives of the proposal, has nevertheless endeavoured to improve some of the provisions and to add further provisions, notably in order to reflect in Community law some additional changes to the SI system.

Smooth functioning of the Internal Market and international acceptance of SI units: Council Directive 80/181/EEC has been reviewed every ten years as concerns local exemptions and the use of supplementary indications. The Council agrees with the intention behind the proposal, which is to increase legal certainty by removing the time limit for the exemptions from the general principle that SI units should be used to the largest extent possible. The Council however deems it important to closely follow the effects of the Directive on units of measurement on the smooth functioning of the Internal Market and on external trade. To this aim, it has inserted a new Article that provides for a Commission report on these effects 10 years after the entry into force of this amending directive. The Council also wished to draw the attention to need to further the acceptance in third country markets of products labelled only in SI units.

Developments within the SI system: the Council agrees with the objective of the Commission to introduce into Community law the new SI unit "katal". It however also wishes to reflect other developments within the SI system in Community law. Therefore the definition of the "kelvin" set out in the directive is updated Chapter I in the Annex is amended to reflect the 1995 CGPM decision to make the "radian" and "steradian" dimensionless.