

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 2-1787/84

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the Environment,
Public Health and Consumer Protection

on the proposal from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council (Doc. 2-1361/84 -
COM(84) 673 final) on a supplement in respect of
cadmium to Annex IV to the Convention on the
protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution
and on a communication on the recommendation by the
International Commission for the Protection of the
Rhine against Pollution on the monitoring of cadmium
discharges

Rapporteur: Mrs B. WEBER

PE 95.687/fin.
Or. Ne.

By letter of 21 December 1984, the President of the Council requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion, pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty, on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on a supplement in respect of cadmium to Annex IV to the Convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution, and on a communication on the recommendation by the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution on the monitoring of cadmium discharges.

On 14 January 1985, the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal and communication to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

At its meeting of 29 January 1985, the committee decided to apply the simplified procedure laid down in Rule 99(2) of the Rules of Procedure, as a result of which its chairman was appointed rapporteur.

On 1 March 1985, having received no objections, the chairman announced that the report was adopted.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

The report was tabled on 4 March 1985.

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The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

A

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on a supplement in respect of cadmium to Annex IV to the Convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution, and on a communication on the recommendation by the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution on the monitoring of cadmium discharges

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(84) 673 final)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 2-1361/84),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc.2-1787/84),
 - having regard to Council Decision 77/586/EEC of 25 July 1977 concluding the Convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution and an Additional Agreement to the Agreement, signed in Berne on 29 April 1963, concerning the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution²,
 - having regard to its approval of the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a decision supplementing Annex IV to the Convention on the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution³,
 - having regard to Council Decision 82/460/EEC of 24 June 1982 on a supplement to Annex IV to the Convention on the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution⁴,
 - having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal,
1. Approves this proposal;
 2. Instructs its President to forward to the Commission and the Council, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution.

¹ OJ No. C 16, 17.1.1985, p. 7

² OJ No. L 240, 19.9.1977, p. 35

³ OJ No. C 291, 10.11.1980, p. 57

⁴ OJ No. L 210, 19.7.1982, p. 8

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Commission's proposal concerns the inclusion of the pollutant cadmium in Annex IV to the Convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution.

The proposal is based on the Agreement, signed in Berne on 29 April 1963, concerning the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution ('Berne Convention') and on the Agreement, signed in Bonn on 3 December 1976, on the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution ('Bonn Convention'), to which the Community became a contracting party on 25 July 1977.

Annex IV to this Convention includes a list of pollutants, the discharge of which into the Rhine is either prohibited or only permitted in certain quantities. Pollutants are added to this list on a proposal from the International Commission, which is composed of representatives of the signatories. The Swiss Confederation, as a non-Member State of the European Community, belongs to the International Commission, for which it also has executive authority. The Commission submits its proposals following agreement with all the contracting parties.

Annex IV was last amended in 1982 to include mercury. At the time the European Parliament approved the proposal without a report. The Council also adopted the International Commission's proposal unamended.

As this proposal is fully compatible with Directive 83/513/EEC concerning limit values and quality objectives for cadmium discharges, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer protection unreservedly supports the Commission's view.

The committee considers that a rapid Council decision is necessary and possible and urges the Commission of the European Communities to work towards the early amendment of Annex IV by the International Commission.