

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(93) 325 final

Brussels, 9 July 1993

**Amended
Proposal for a Council decision on the introduction
of a Community information system on domestic
and leisure accidents**

(presented by the Commission pursuant to Article 149(3)
of the EEC-Treaty)

Explanatory memorandum

This amended version of the proposal for a Council decision on the introduction of a Community information system on domestic and leisure accidents is hereby presented following the delivery of the opinion by the European Parliament on 25 June 1993.

In correspondance with the original proposal the amended proposal opholds the principles of aiming at giving the Member States the appropriate means to take action by disseminating, where necessary, information on home and leisure accidents to the Community and national authorities concerned.

Apart from a change in the wording of "industrial accidents " into "accidents at work" for reason of clarification, which only concerns the English and Greek version, the main purposes of the amendments are to increase the transparency of the data collecting system as well as underline the importance of the use of a homogenous methodology, so that the Commission as well as the Member States are in a better position to take actions in the area of product safety.

To improve the transparency the Commission is asked to summarise, publish and disseminate at Community level the data received from the Member States, whereas the Member States are asked to publish their report nationally .

The necessity of a homogenous datacollecting is stressed in the amendment, where the Commission is asked to report in cases where in its view the Member States divert from the agreed principles of datacollecting.

In order that the collected data should give as accurate as possible a picture of potential accidents, Member States are asked that the hospitals participating in the datacollection should as far as possible represent both rural and urban communities.

It is also found necessary to underline that the EHLASS data collecting system does not represent any statistical proof of the safety or otherwise of any given product.

The Commission could not accept the amendment, which suggested to delete the possibility of using alternative sources of an equivalent value in the data collection. The demonstration project showed that it was necessary to allow equivalent alternative sources in the data collection, taking into account the different national structures. Furthermore it is not contradictory to the new orientation of the system as this implied that the data collected should primarily be studied on a political basis by the national authorities responsible.

Amended Proposal for a Council Decision introducing a
Community system of information on home and leisure accidents

(presented by the Commission having regard to article 149 paragraph 3 of the EEC Treaty).

Fifth Recital (new)

Whereas the Community aspects of the collection of data oblige the Member States to use a homogeneous methodology for the collection and production of information for transmission to the Commission; whereas this constraint is not disproportionate to the objective pursued;

Whereas the Community aspects of the collection of data oblige the Member States to use a homogeneous methodology for the collection and production of information for transmission to the Commission; whereas this constraint is not disproportionate to the objective pursued; whereas the system is of a character and nature which makes it unfit as a statistical instrument, this must clearly be stated whenever reference is made to the European Community's EHLASS scheme.

Article 1 - paragraph 3

Text by the Commission

Amendments

This Decision shall not apply to industrial accidents, nor to road, rail, sea or air traffic accidents.

This Decision shall not apply to, accidents at work, nor to road, rail, sea or air traffic accidents.

Article 2 is unchanged

Article 3 - paragraph 3

Text by the Commission

Amendments

After receiving the annual reports, it shall ensure that the data are processed, summarized and disseminated at Community level in an appropriate manner.

The Commission shall each year process, summarise and publish the data received from the Member States and disseminate it at Community level in an appropriate manner.

Article 3 - paragraph 4 (new)

Text by the Commission

Amendments

The Commission shall report where in its view the data provided by the Member States is not compatible with the methodology agreed or where Member States have failed to provide the agreed data.

Article 4 - paragraph 2 (new)

Text by the Commission

Amendments

Each Member State shall enhance the transparency of the use of Community funds by publishing annually in their own Member State their report on the EHLASS data forwarded to the Commission.

Article 5 - paragraph 2 (new)

Text by the Commission

Amendments

Any attributed use of EHLASS data in Member States shall be accompanied by the words " The European Community's EHLASS scheme provides general guidance only and should not be taken as statistical proof of the safety or otherwise of any given product.

There are no changes to articles 6,7 and 8

Annex I

Point 1 is not changed.

Point 2 - paragraph 1 (new)

Text by the Commission

The basic information shall be obtained from the casualty departments of hospitals selected by the Member States in accordance with the limits specified at point 4.

Amendments

The basic information shall be obtained from the casualty departments of hospitals selected by the Member States in accordance with the limits specified at point 4. Such hospitals should as far as possible represent proportionately both rural and urban communities.

There are no changes to points 3 - 5 and Annex II.

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