



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 19.07.1996

COM(96) 382 final

96/0272 (COD)

OPINION OF THE COMMISSION

pursuant to Article 189 b (2) (d) of the EC Treaty,
on the European Parliament's amendments
to the Council's common position regarding the

proposal for a
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

on Energy
Efficiency Requirements for Household Electric Refrigerators, Freezers and their
Combinations

AMENDING THE PROPOSAL OF THE COMMISSION

pursuant to Article 189 a (2) of the EC Treaty

1. **Background**

- Date proposal transmitted to:
Parliament and Council (codecision procedure) 18.01.1995
- Date of opinion of Economic and Social Committee 27.04.1995
- Date of Parliament's opinion on first reading 26.10.1995
- Date amended proposal transmitted COM (95) 638 08.12.1995
- Date common position adopted 11.03.1996
- Date of Parliament's opinion on second reading 18.06.1996

2. **Purpose of Commission proposal**

The present proposal aims to establish minimum energy efficiency standards for domestic refrigeration appliances sold in the European Union. The adoption of the proposal will make a key contribution to improving energy efficiency and therefore helps to reduce CO2 emissions. The present proposal also fulfils the undertaking by the Commission to propose Community-wide minimum efficiency standards for refrigeration appliances after having blocked a proposal from the Netherlands to introduce similar standards for appliances sold in their country, which would have introduced a potential barrier to trade.

3. **Comments on the Parliament's second reading**

The European Parliament has adopted in second reading two amendments to the Council Common Position. The two amendments do not modify the substance of the Common Position.

The Commission position on this two amendments is as follows:

- Amendment nr. 5: accepted;

This amendment adds the word "significantly" in Article 8 concerning the second phase of efficiency improvement. This is the Commission

preferred text for Article 8.

- Amendment nr. 4: accepted;

This amendment changes the reference in Annex I for the measuring method to the new version of the European standard EN 153 of July 1995. The new version of EN 153 of July 1995 does not change anything compared to the old version of May 1990 in the measurement of energy consumption; it only introduces new definitions and references for no-frost refrigerators and freezers. The Commission however would like to point out that this change from "May 1990" to "July 1995" should also be introduced in the "17th whereas".

4. Conclusion

The Commission therefore accepts both the amendments adopted by the Parliament in second reading.

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