



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 12.12.1996
COM(96) 710 final - COD 384

OPINION OF THE COMMISSION
pursuant to Article 189b (2) (a) of the EC Treaty
on the European Parliament's second reading of
the Council's Common Position for a
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL DIRECTIVE
concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The present proposal for a Directive is based on Article 57 (2), Article 66 and Article 100a of the EC Treaty. Article 100a requires the co-decision procedure of Article 189b of the Treaty.

The Commission presents its Opinion on the second reading of the European Parliament.

1. STATE OF THE PROCEDURE

The proposal for a Council Directive concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity was presented by the Commission on 21 February 1992 (COM(91) 548 final - SYN384).

The European Parliament gave its opinion in first reading on 17 November 1993. It proposed numerous amendments.

The Economic and Social Committee gave its opinion on 27 January 1993.

The Commission presented an amended proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on 7 December 1993 (COM(93)643 final -COD 384).

The Commission presented two working papers, the first on the Organisation of the Internal Electricity Market of 22 March 1995 (SEC(95)464 final) and the second on Small and very small electricity systems in the Internal Electricity Market of 10 May 1995(SEC(95) 685 final).

The European Parliament commented on the second working paper of 10 May 1995 in its report of 7 February 1996 (PE 215.270/def) .

The Council of the European Union has adopted a Common Position on 25 July 1996 (Doc. 8811/96 ENER 105).

The Commission accepted this common position on 26 July 1996 (SEC(96) 1409 final -COD 384), and informed the European Parliament of its opinion.

The European Parliament voted on the second reading on 11 December 1996, adopting a favourable resolution which included no amendments to the common position.

2. FIELD OF APPLICATION

The present proposal for a Directive applies to the production, transmission and distribution of electricity. It aims at ensuring the introduction of competition to the electricity sector, creating more efficiency, strengthening security of supply and providing equal access for all producers and eligible customers to this sector. The proposal is part of the second phase of the effort of the Commission to establish the internal energy market and as such represents an intermediate phase towards full liberalisation of the electricity sector. It will be followed by further measures promoting market opening.

3. THE COMMISSION'S OPINION ON THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S SECOND READING

The Commission welcomes the fact that the European Parliament did not adopt any amendments on the common position of the Council in its second reading of 11 December 1996.

The Commission invites the Council to definitively adopt the Directive in question in accordance with the common position.

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DOCUMENTS

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