



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 251 (2) of the EC-Treaty

Common position of the Council with a view to the adoption of a Council Decision of the European Parliament and the Council adopting a Multi-annual Programme for Energy Efficiency (SAVE) (1998-2002).

Common position of the Council with a view to the adoption of a Council Decision of the European Parliament and the Council adopting a Multi-annual Programme for Energy; Annex V, the Promotion of Energy Efficiency (SAVE) (1998-2002).

1. **Background**

Proposal transmitted to Parliament and Council	04.12.97
Opinion of Economic and Social Committee	29.04.98
Opinion of Committee of Regions	16.07.98
Parliament's opinion on first reading	11.03.99
Commission's amended proposal (COM(99)211)	21.05.99
Common position adopted	28.06.99

2. **Purpose of the Commission proposal**

The purpose of the Commission's proposal is to include the SAVE II programme (which expires on 31.12.2000) as Annex V of the Multi-annual Framework Programme for the Energy sector which was adopted by the Council (Council Decision 1999/21/CE) and to extend its duration by 2 years to 2002. SAVE forms part of the strategy to limit emissions of CO₂ and is now based on Article 175(1) of the Treaty which foresees the co-decision procedure with Parliament.

3. **Comments on common position**

3.1 The common position is largely in line with and supportive of the Commission's amended proposal. In several instances the common position streamlines and updates the Commission's proposal as well as setting it clearly in the context of the Multi-annual Energy Framework Programme. The common position adds a reference to the financial framework for the implementation of this programme (see 3.3 below).

3.2 **Parliament's amendments on the first reading**

Accepted by Commission and incorporated in common position:

- Amendments 7 (part)
- Amendments 2, 8 accepted in principle but not in the proposed form.

Accepted by Commission but not incorporated in common position:

- Amendment 3: the issue of efficient and renewable energy technologies is included in a revised and updated recital (14) on RTD and can therefore be accepted.
- Amendment 7 (part): reference to minimum objectives (in the areas of energy efficiency and savings) not incorporated but nevertheless a reference to the formulation of objectives is retained and is therefore acceptable.
- Amendment 10: a specific reference to complementary activities in the field of renewable energy sources is in fact superfluous as the Energy Framework Programme aims to ensure greater complementarity and co-ordination between its component parts, including renewable energy sources. It is therefore acceptable.
- Amendment 16: the detailed addition of all the available media by which to disseminate information is deemed unnecessary as it is covered in the phrase "using appropriate means of disseminating information". It is therefore acceptable.

3.3 **New provisions introduced by the Council and Commission's position**

The common position streamlines and updates the proposal in a number of areas:

- Kyoto and CO₂ emissions (recitals 3 and 4),
- reference to the Commission Communication on Energy Efficiency in the EC – towards a Strategy for the Rational Use of Energy (COM(98) 246) (recital 6),
- references to the new context of the Multi-annual Energy Framework Programme adopted by Council Decision 1999/21/EC (recital 12, Articles 5, 6, 8),
- reference to the Fifth R.T.D. Framework Programme (1998-2002) and Council Decision of 25/01/99 adopting a specific programme on energy and related fields (recital 14),
- the conditions of participation in SAVE for the CEECs and Cyprus (Article 9).

All these amendments are consistent with the original proposal and indeed improve it.

In addition, Article 4 (1) refers to the financial framework for the implementation of the programme as EUR 64 million (EUR 25.6 million for 1998-99 and a financial reference amount of EUR 38.4 million for 2000-2002). The indicative amount of EUR 64 million was agreed at the Energy Council of 13.11.98 giving a priority to SAVE (and ALTENER) within the Multi-annual Energy Framework Programme. The Programme will be reviewed taking into account the priority of energy activities before the end of 2000.

4 Conclusions

The common position is largely consistent with and supportive of the Commission's amended proposal (COM(99)211). Where appropriate, it updates the amended proposal and sets it clearly within the context of the Multi-annual Energy Framework Programme. The Commission can therefore support the common position.