

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1984-1985

2 April 1984

DOCUMENT 1-100/84

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 (COM(83) 422 final -
Doc. 1-633/83) for a Directive on limit values and
quality objectives for discharges of hexachlorocyclohexane,
and in particular lindane

Rapporteur: Mr Alain BOMBARD

PE 88.921 /fin.
Or.En.

By letter of 3 August 1983, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion, pursuant to Articles 100 and 235 of the EEC Treaty, on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive on limit values and quality objectives for discharges of hexachlorocyclohexane, and in particular lindane.

On 12 September 1983 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 22 September 1983 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mr Bombard rapporteur.

The committee considered the Commission proposal and the draft report at its meeting of 22 February and 22 March 1984. At the latter meeting the committee decided unanimously to recommend that Parliament should adopt the Commission's proposal without amendment. The committee then unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

Present: Mr Ryan, acting chairman; Mr Bombard, rapporteur; Mr Ceravolo (deputizing for Mr Spinelli), Mr Eisma (deputizing for Mrs Spaak), Mr Fuchs (deputizing for Mr Alber), Mr Ghergo, Mrs Lentz-Cornette, Mr B. Nielsen (deputizing for Mrs Pruvot), Mrs Schleicher, Mrs Seibel-Emmerling.

The report was tabled on 27 March 1984.

The committee decided on 22 March 1984 to request the application of Rule 34.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>PAGE</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	7

A.

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:

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 for a Directive on limit values and quality objectives for discharges of hexachlorocyclohexane, and in particular lindane

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(83) 422 final)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 100 and 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-633/83),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-100/84),
 - having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal,
- A. Whereas Parliament has already delivered opinions on draft directives on cadmium, mercury and aldrin, dieldrin and endrin discharges;
 - B. Whereas the present proposal does not cover indirect discharges of hexachlorocyclohexane and lindane;
 - C. Whereas the measures proposed to eliminate pollution of the aquatic environment might in some cases lead to an increase in air pollution;
 - D. Concerned at the slow progress made since the adoption of the Framework Directive (76/464/EEC);
1. Notes with satisfaction that the Commission in dealing with this proposal has taken into account amendments tabled by Parliament at the time of adoption of its report on cadmium discharges;

¹ OJ No. C 215, 11.8.1983, p.3

2. Calls on the Commission to supplement, as a matter of urgency, the present proposal by a proposal dealing with indirect discharges of HCH and lindane in the agricultural sector;
3. Welcomes the proposal to make discharges of HCH into the air subject to an authorization laying down emission standards;
4. Calls on the Commission to examine the possibility of dealing with several list I substances in a single directive and to indicate its time-scale for the presentation of further implementing directives;
5. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution.

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The aim of the present directive is to eliminate pollution caused by effluent containing hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH) and its isomers, one of which is lindane. The directive is one of a series of implementing directives following the adoption of the outline directive on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community.¹

2. Most of the HCH produced in the European Community is intended for export, the annual consumption within the EEC being around 2.500 tonnes. There are three HCH factories in the EEC and twelve major formulation units of lindane. HCH is also used for the treatment of wood and in cable manufacture. Where the last two sectors are concerned, it has been decided by the Commission not to introduce special measures given the small amounts discharged by the factories. The Commission, however, intends to introduce specific measures for pesticide formulation plants which would cover not only HCH but all the dangerous substances discharged by such plants.

3. The directive does not cover indirect discharges of HCH or lindane although Articles 8 and 9 of the Framework Directive provided for protection against pollution due to indirect discharges. The Commission considers that in view of the "scattered nature" of such emissions, it is impossible to propose limit values for them. It is intended to deal with such discharges, when they contain list I substances, in separate proposals.

¹OJ No. L 129, 18.5.1976

The Committee considers that the problem of indirect discharges arises particularly in the agricultural sector and calls on the Commission to deal with this as a priority.

4. The Commission does, however, propose that provision should be made for the taking of additional measures by Member States to ensure that any measures adopted pursuant to the directive do not increase air pollution. This provision receives the wholehearted support of the Committee.

5. The Committee welcomes the directive and in particular notes that the Commission has drafted this proposal taking into account various points of principle made at the time of adoption by Parliament of the report on cadmium.

6. The Committee is concerned however at the slow progress made since the adoption of the 1976 Framework Directive. Part of the problem lies in the Commission being expected to submit individual directives for each of the substances in the so-called "black" list (List I of the directive). The Committee would ask the Commission, therefore, to examine the possibility of grouping as many of these substances as possible into a single directive and to indicate to Parliament within what time-scale it expects to complete its work on the application of the Framework Directive.

7. Apart from the above remarks, the Committee has no particular criticisms of the present directive and calls on the Council to adopt the Commission's proposal as soon as possible.