

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(92) 382 final

Brussels, 3 September 1992

Amended proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

ON

**ACCESSION BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
TO THE PROTOCOL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE
TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION ON THE REDUCTION OF EMISSIONS OF
NITROGEN OXIDES OR THEIR TRANSBOUNDARY FLUXES**

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

Explanatory memorandum

In response to the opinion delivered by the European Parliament at its plenary part-session of 12 March 1992, the Commission is presenting an amended proposal for a Decision.

The sole amendment involves the introduction of two new recitals.

The first of these (recital 5(a)) stresses the need to introduce structural changes to reduce energy demand, chiefly in the transport sector.

The Commission agrees with this; measures such as this produce substantial savings in fuel and lead to a reduction in emissions of NO_x and other pollutants (COV, CO₂).

They are often the most useful measures in terms of cost-effectiveness.

The second (recital 6(a)) points out that other nitrogen compounds in addition to oxides are responsible for transboundary atmospheric pollution, e.g. NH₃ (ammonia).

It also points out that stabilization can be envisaged only as a first step. A further reduction must be negotiated. The Protocol provides for this second step of negotiation.

It will be based principally on the critical load approach, ensuring that efforts are optimized and that all nitrogen deposits are taken into account.

The Commission is unable to accept the other amendments put forward by Parliament since they do not relate directly to the Decision, which concerns accession to a Protocol which has already been negotiated.

Fifth recital a (new)

Whereas, in addition to the regulations covering technological adjustments, structural changes must be introduced which seek primarily to curb demand for energy in the various sectors of the economy, and in particular in the transport sector, the main source of NOx pollution;

Sixth recital a (new)

Whereas the stabilization of total emissions of nitrogen oxides is a laudable but inadequate objective, whereas there is a need to reduce significantly the level of current emissions of both nitrogen oxides and all nitrogenized pollutants;

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