

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

3 June 1981

DOCUMENT 1-253/81

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-144/81) for a directive amending Directive 73/405/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to methods of testing the biodegradability of anionic surfactants

Rapporteur: Mr I. FRIEDRICH

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By letter of 4 May 1981 the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 100 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission for a directive amending Directive 73/405/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to methods of testing the biodegradability of anionic surfactants (Doc. 1-144/81).

The European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, which at its meeting of 14 May 1981 appointed Mr I. FRIEDRICH rapporteur.

The committee considered the proposal at its meeting of 22 May 1981 and at the same meeting adopted the Commission's proposal for a directive and the motion for a resolution unanimously.

The committee also decided to propose that the report be dealt with under the procedure without debate (Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure).

Present: Mr de Ferranti, acting chairman; Mr I Friedrich, rapporteur; Mrs Baduel Glorioso, Mr Beumer, Mr Bonaccini, Mr Carossino (deputising for Mr Piquet), Mr Colla (deputising for Mr Rogers), Mr Franz, Miss Forster, Mr Giarazzi, Mr Hopper, Mr Leonardi, Mr Markozanis, Mr Nyborg, Mr Orlandi (deputising for Mr Ruffolo) and Mr Walter.

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The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending Directive 73/405/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to methods of testing the biodegradability of anionic surfactants

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 100 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-144/81),
 - having regard to its opinion of 11 July 1980 on methods of testing the biodegradability of non-ionic surfactants²,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (Doc. 1-253/81),
1. Agrees that the methods of testing the biodegradability of non-ionic and anionic surfactants should correspond as far as possible;
 2. Approves the Commission's proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

¹ OJ No. C 112, 14.5.1981, p. 4

² OJ No. C 197, 4.8.1980, p. 66

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. In 1973 the Council adopted a framework directive on the approximation on the laws of the Member States relating to detergents¹; this prohibits the placing on the market and use of detergents where the average level of biodegradability of the surfactants contained therein is less than 90% for each of the following categories: anionic, cationic, non-ionic and ampholytic (See Article 2 of the directive).

Article 4 of the same directive provides for the specific methods of testing to be laid down in separate directives.

In the case of anionic surfactants, these common methods of testing were laid down in a separate directive of the same date², which the Commission is now proposing to amend.

In 1980 the Commission submitted a proposal for a separate directive on non-ionic surfactants³.

2. The main aim of the present proposal is to bring the methods of testing anionic surfactants into line with those which have been proposed for testing non-ionic substances, of which the European Parliament has already expressed its approval⁴.

3. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs agrees that the methods of testing anionic and non-ionic surfactants should correspond as far as possible, and therefore supports the Commission's proposal.

¹ OJ No L 347, 17.12.1973, p.51

² OJ No L 347, 17.12.1973, p.53

³ OJ No C 104, 28.4.1980, p.112

⁴ OJ No C 197, 4.8.1980, p.66