

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

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15 December 1978

DOCUMENT 490/78

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 (Doc. 183/78) for a Directive amending the Directive of 1 June 1976  
laying down the revised Basic Safety Standards for the health protection of the  
general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation

Rapporteur: Lord BETHELL

12.1.



By letter of 21 June 1978, the President of the Council of the European Communities asked the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Directive amending the Directive of 1 June 1976 laying down the revised basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, as the committee responsible, on 28 June 1978.

On 25 September 1978, the committee appointed Mrs SQUARCIALUPI rapporteur and on 19 October 1978 Lord BETHELL was appointed as the new rapporteur.

The committee held an initial exchange of views at its meeting of 25 September 1978. On 30 November 1978 it considered the draft report and adopted it unanimously.

Present: Lord Bethell, Vice-Chairman and rapporteur: Mr Andersen, Mr Bertrand (deputizing for Mr van Aerssen), Mr Brosnan (deputizing for Mr Herbert), Mr Edwards, Mr Lamberts, Mr Willy Müller, Mr Plebe, Mr Schyns, Mr Spicer, Mrs Squarcialupi, Mr Verhaegen, Mr Veronesi and Mr Wawrzik.

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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

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Directive amending the Directive of 1 June 1976<sup>1</sup> laying down the revised basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council<sup>2</sup>,
  - having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 183/78),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 490/78),
1. Approves, with considerable reservations, the Commission's proposal for a directive, which provides for an extension of the period allowed for the adaptation of national legislation to the directive of 1 June 1976 ;
  2. Calls for early adaptation of the directive of 1 June 1976, to the new recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection and requests the Commission to submit an appropriate proposal for a directive by the end of the year.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. L 187, 12.7.1976, p.1

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. C 147, 22.6.1978, p.11

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The Directive of 1 June 1976<sup>1</sup>, which the Commission is proposing to amend, was concerned with adapting a basic directive drawn up in 1959 laying down the basic standards for the protection of the health of the general public and workers against the dangers arising from ionizing radiations to scientific developments<sup>2</sup>. According to Article 40 of the 1976 Directive, Member States were to bring their legislation into line with the basic standards of the Directive by 12 July 1978.
2. The Commission is now proposing to extend the period allowed for adaptation of national legislation to 12 July 1980. The reason it gives is that the International Commission on Radiological Protection published new recommendations in 1977, which modified the basic standards accepted previously in the field of radio-biology and radiation protection. The Commission therefore feels it is necessary to revise the Community's 1976 directive on radiation protection, and that it is appropriate to extend the period for adapting national legislation to the 1976 directive, to avoid Member States having to alter their regulations twice within a short period of time.
3. In its resolution<sup>3</sup> on the 1976 Council Directive, Parliament urged the Council to adopt the Commission's proposal for a directive without delay, so that the adapted provisions could be implemented within two years. The Economic and Social Committee emphasized in its opinion<sup>4</sup> that any delay endangered the provision of effective protection against radiation and its harmonization at European level. Despite this appeal, the Council did not have the Directive come into force until 1 June 1976. Including the time required for the preparation of the directive (which goes back to 1972!), Member States had approximately six years in which to adjust to the new legal situation and adapt their national regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. L 187, 12.7.1976

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. L 11, 20.2.1959

<sup>3</sup> OJ No. C 40, 8.4.1974

<sup>4</sup> ESC 439/73, 24.5.1973

4. The committee cannot understand the attitude of the Member States and feels that their inactivity should not be rewarded by our extension of the time limit. Only the Commission's promise to submit to the Council by the end of this year a new proposal for a directive on the adaptation of the directive of 1 June 1976 persuaded it to make an exception and approve the extension to save some Member States having to adapt their legislation twice within a short space of time.

