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European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1979 - 1980

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23 April 1979

DOCUMENT 78/79

## 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. 619/78) for a Directive amending the Directives 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**

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By letter of 8 February 1979 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested 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 Directives laying down the revised basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation.

On 12 February 1979 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

On 21 February 1979 the Committee appointed Lord BETHELL rapporteur.

The Committee held an initial exchange of views on 21 March 1979. On 3 April 1979 it considered the draft report and adopted the motion for a resolution unanimously.

Present: Mrs Krouwel-Vlam, chairperson; Lord Bethell, rapporteur and vice-chairman; Mr Jahn, vice-chairman; Mr Alber, Mr Andersen, Mr Brown, Mr Granet, Mr W. Müller, Lord St. Oswald, Mrs Squarcialupi and Mr Verhaegen.

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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 Directives 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>1</sup>,
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 31 of EAEC Treaty (Doc. 619/78),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 78 /79),
1. Approves the Commission's proposal which is in line with the request made by the European Parliament in 1978;
  2. Congratulates the Commission on submitting its proposal within the time requested by the European Parliament, i.e. by the end of 1978;
  3. Accepts that, for practical reasons, Member States must be given two years in which to amend their legislation, but hopes that whenever possible the legislation will be enacted much earlier;
  4. Invites the Council, in view of previous delays, to translate this proposal into a directive without further ado.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 86, 2.4.1979, p. 19



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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. In December 1978 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection delivered an opinion<sup>1</sup> on a proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Directive amending the Directives laying down the revised Basic Safety Standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation<sup>2</sup>. It was proposed by the Commission to extend the period allowed for adaptation of national legislation to 12 July 1980.
2. The Committee approved the proposal with reservations and called on the Commission to submit to the Council by the end of 1978 a new proposal for a directive on the adaptation of the directive of 1 June 1976. The present proposal has been submitted in response to this request.
3. The changes proposed to the basic safety standards are in line with the recommendations published by the International Commission on Radiological Protection in June 1977. The I.C.R.P. is universally recognised as an authority in this field and international organizations, notably the IAEA, the OECD, the WHO and ILO are currently incorporating these recommendations into a recommendation to their own member states. Your Committee accepts that the Commission of the European Communities could not and should not dissociate itself from these international organizations.
4. A Standing Committee on Amendment and Updating will be set up under this proposal. The function of this committee will be to ensure that the annexes will be kept in line with scientific and technical progress.
5. Member States are allowed two years from the date of notification of the directive to implement these measures. While your Committee would prefer to see this time limit reduced, it is prepared to accept that for practical reasons this may not be feasible. However, it reminds the Commission that it considers that Member States have been rather inactive

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<sup>1</sup>Doc. 490/78

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

in this field and that under no circumstances will a request for an extension of this time limit be approved. Your Committee considers that the Council should act immediately on this proposal so that Member States may set about adapting their legislation as soon as possible.