

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

FINAL
A5-0462/2001

19 December 2001

REPORT

on the proposal for a Council decision relating to the conclusion, on behalf of the Community, of the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
(COM(2001) 483 – C5-0644/2001 – 2001/0188(CNS))

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy

Rapporteur: Caroline F. Jackson

(Simplified procedure – Rule 158(2))

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- *** Assent procedure
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases
covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and
Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

CONTENTS

	Page
PROCEDURAL PAGE	4
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION	5
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	6

PROCEDURAL PAGE

By letter of 6 December 2001 the Council consulted Parliament on the proposal for a Council decision relating to the conclusion, on behalf of the Community, of the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (COM(2001) 483 - 2001/0188 (CNS)).

At the sitting of 10 December 2001 the President of Parliament announced that she had referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy as the committee responsible (C5-0644/2001).

At its meeting of 8 October 2001 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy decided to apply the simplified procedure under Rule 158(2), thus appointing its chairman rapporteur.

As the chairman did not receive objections within the time limit laid down by the above Rule she noted that the report had been adopted.

The report was tabled on 19 December 2001.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision relating to the conclusion, on behalf of the Community, of the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (COM(2001) 483 – C5-0644/2001 – 2001/0188(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2001) 483¹),
 - having regard to Articles 170 and 300(2), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council (C5-0644/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy (A5-0462/2001),
1. Approves conclusion of the Protocol;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes aims at preventing, controlling and reducing the incidence of water-related disease through collaboration on water management and protection of health and the environment through appropriate measures. Its scope in relation to water is identical to that of the Parent Convention, ratified by the Community in 1995, and fully compatible with existing Community legislation

The Protocol does not create new legal obligations for the Community in the field of water policy.

Existing Community water legislation goes considerably beyond the water related obligations of the Protocol and the Parent Convention, in particular in relation to groundwater, drinking water, urban waste water treatment, nitrates from agriculture, discharge of dangerous substances to the aquatic environment, bathing water and shellfish water.

In relation to health, the protocol complements the provisions of Article 152 of the Amsterdam Treaty regarding Community action in the field of water-related diseases. It strengthens the role the EU can play in prevention measures and regarding co-operation with third countries. The protocol is compatible with the existing public health programmes and other activities developed at Community level.

Obligations to inform and involve the public on water related issues are already implemented through existing Community legislation, for example the Water Framework Directive, or are in the process of adoption through the adjustments of existing legislation in order to implement the Aarhus Convention. Compatibility of the Protocol with the Aarhus Convention has been ensured, in particular through the wording of Article 10 of the Protocol.

The Rapporteur therefore recommends that Parliament approves the Commission's proposal.