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**A5-0240/2002**

20 June 2002

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## **REPORT**

on the proposal for a Council decision on the accession, on behalf of the European Community to the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-Level Ozone  
(COM(2002) 44 – C5-0094/2002 – 2002/0035(CNS))

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy

Rapporteur: Caroline F. Jackson

### ***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.

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## PROCEDURAL PAGE

By letter of 19 February 2002 the Council consulted Parliament, pursuant to Article 175(1) of the EC Treaty and Article 300(2), subparagraph a1 of the Treaty, on the proposal for a Council decision on the accession, on behalf of the European Community to the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-Level Ozone (COM(2002) 44 - 2002/0035(CNS)).

At the sitting of 11 March 2002 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy as the committee responsible and the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy for its opinion (C5-0094/2002).

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy had appointed Caroline F. Jackson as rapporteur at its meeting of 19 February 2002.

It considered the Commission proposal and draft report at its meeting of 18 June 2002.

At the latter it adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Caroline F. Jackson, chairman; Alexander de Roo, vice-chairman; Per-Arne Arvidsson, María del Pilar Ayuso González, Hans Blokland, David Robert Bowie, John Bowis, Hiltrud Breyer, Dorette Corbey, Chris Davies, Marialiese Flemming, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Cristina García-Orcoyen Tormo, Laura González Álvarez, Robert Goodwill, Françoise Grossetête, Jutta D. Haug (for Anne Ferreira), Anneli Hulthén, Piia-Noora Kauppi (for Carlos Costa Neves), Christa Klač, Eija-Riitta Anneli Korhola, Peter Liese, Rolf Linkohr (for Bernd Lange), Giorgio Lisi (for Martin Callanan), Torben Lund, Minerva Melpomeni Malliori, Patricia McKenna, Jorge Moreira da Silva, Emilia Franziska Müller, Giuseppe Nisticò, Mauro Nobilia, Guido Sacconi, Karin Scheele, Horst Schnellhardt, Inger Schörling, María Sornosa Martínez, Catherine Stihler, Antonios Trakatellis, Phillip Whitehead.

The Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy decided on 19 March 2002 not to deliver an opinion.

The report was tabled on 20 June 2002.

The deadline for tabling amendments will be indicated in the draft agenda for the relevant part-session.

## LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

**Proposal for a Council decision on the accession, on behalf of the European Community to the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-Level Ozone (COM(2002) 44 – C5-0094/2002 – 2002/0035(CNS))**

The proposal is approved.

## DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the accession, on behalf of the European Community to the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-Level Ozone (COM(2002) 44 – C5-0094/2002 – 2002/0035(CNS))**

**(Consultation procedure)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2002) 44<sup>1</sup>),
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 175(1) and 300(2) subparagraph a1 of the EC Treaty (C5-0094/2002),
  - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy (A5-0240/2002),
1. Approves the Commission proposal;
  2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
  3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to amend the Commission proposal substantially;
  4. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> not yet published in OJ.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Community and the 15 Member States are Parties to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. On 30 November 1999 the Executive Body to the Convention adopted the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-Level Ozone in Gothenburg (Sweden).

The objective of the Gothenburg Protocol is to control and reduce emissions of sulphur, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and volatile organic compounds which cause some of the most important air pollution problems affecting the environment and human health in the Community today, due to acidification, eutrophication or ground-level ozone. The Protocol sets maximum permitted levels of emissions for each national Party for these four main precursor pollutants; these ceilings are to be met by 2010. The Protocol also sets limits for values from specific emission sources (e.g. combustion plants, electricity production, dry cleaning, cars and lorries) and requires best available techniques to be used to keep emissions down.

Directive 2001/7881/EC on National Emission Ceilings sets targets for each Member State, which are to be met by 2010 that are equal to or more ambitious than those required by the Gothenburg Protocol.

Directive 2001/80/EC on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants sets new limit values for emissions from this sector which are consistent with those set under the Protocol.

It has been estimated that once the Protocol is implemented, the area with excessive levels of acidification in Europe as a whole, including non-Member States will shrink considerably. The number of days with excessive ozone levels will be halved and levels of particulate matter will also fall. The Community will thus also benefit greatly from reductions in emissions by parties outside the present Member States.

The European Community did not sign the Protocol before the closing date of 31 May 2000. It is still possible for the Community to accede to the Protocol. This would be a useful step towards final approval of it. It is therefore appropriate for the Community to accede to the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-Level Ozone

Your rapporteur proposes that the European Parliament approve the Council decision unamended.