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A6-0102/2008

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*** **RECOMMENDATION FOR** SECOND READING

on the Council common position for adopting a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the banning of exports and the safe storage of metallic mercury (11488/1/2007 - C6-0034/2008 - 2006/0206(COD))

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Rapporteur: Dimitrios Papadimoulis

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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	e of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the	
Commis		

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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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the Council common position for adopting a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the banning of exports and the safe storage of metallic mercury (11488/1/2007 – C6-0034/2008 – 2006/0206(COD))

(Codecision procedure: second reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council common position (11488/1/2007 C6-0034/2008),
- having regard to its position at first reading¹ on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2006)0636),
- having regard to Article 251(2) of the EC Treaty,
- having regard to Rule 62 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the recommendation for second reading of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (A6-0102/2008),
- 1. Approves the common position as amended;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

Council common position

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1 Title

REGULATION (EC) No .../2007 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of on the banning of exports and the safe storage of metallic mercury

REGULATION (EC) No .../2008 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of on the banning of exports and the safe storage of metallic mercury, *cinnabar ore, mercury compounds and certain mercurycontaining products*

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 1.

¹ Texts adopted 20.6.2007, P6_TA(2007)0267.

Amendment 2 Citation 1

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 175(1) thereof *and*, *in relation to Article 1 of this Regulation, Article 133 thereof*, Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 175(1) thereof,

Justification

Reinstates first reading Amendment 2.

Amendment 3 Recital -1 (new)

(-1) This Regulation is motivated by the need to protect human health and the environment.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 19.

Amendment 4 Recital 1

(1) Mercury releases are recognised as a global threat that warrants action at regional, national and global level.

(1) Mercury releases are recognised as a global threat that warrants action at *local*, regional, national and global level.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 3.

Amendment 5 Recital 2

(2) In accordance with the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament "Community Strategy Concerning Mercury", it is necessary to reduce the risk of exposure to mercury for humans and the environment. (2) In accordance with the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament "Community Strategy Concerning Mercury", *and with the European Parliament's resolution of 14 March 2006¹ on that strategy*, it is necessary to reduce the risk of exposure to

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mercury for humans and the environment.

¹OJ C 291 E, 30.11.2006, p. 128.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 4.

Amendment 6 Recital 3 a (new)

> (3a) The European Parliament and the Council recognised the environmental and social problems arising from the closure of the mercury mines in the district of Almadén (Spain) and considered it advisable to adopt adequate compensation measures in order to allow the area affected to find viable solutions for the local environment, employment and economic activity. Furthermore, in its abovementioned resolution of 14 March 2006 the European Parliament took the view that the mines in Almadén would be a good site for the safe storage of metallic mercury.

Justification

Reinstates Amendment 6 from first reading.

Amendment 7 Recital 4

(4) The export of metallic mercury from the Community should be banned in order to significantly reduce the global mercury supply. (4) The export of metallic mercury, cinnabar ore and mercury compounds from the Community should be banned in order to significantly reduce the global mercury supply. Member States should have the right to impose broader and more stringent bans in accordance with Article 176 of the Treaty.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 7.

Amendment 8 Recital 4 a (new)

(4a) For the same reason, the export of mercury-containing products already, or about to be, prohibited from being placed on the market in the European Union should also be banned. The Commission should draw up a consolidated list of the products covered which should be updated annually, on the basis of developments in Community law.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 8.

Amendment 9 Recital 4 b (new)

(4b) The import of metallic mercury, cinnabar ore and mercury compounds should be banned in order to ensure better protection for human health and the environment in the European Union.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 9.

Amendment 10 Recital 5 a (new)

(5a) Member States should periodically submit information to the Commission on the metallic mercury, cinnabar ore and mercury compounds entering or leaving or traded cross-border within their territory, in order to enable the effectiveness of the instrument to be

assessed in due time. All such information should be readily available to the public.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 10.

Amendment 11 Recital 6

(6) In order to provide for possibilities of safe storage of metallic mercury that is considered as waste, it is appropriate to derogate from Article 5(3)(a) of Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste for certain types of landfill, and to declare the criteria of section 2.4 of the Annex to Council Decision 2003/33/EC of 19 December 2002 establishing criteria and procedures for the acceptance of waste at landfills pursuant to Article 16 of and Annex II to Directive 1999/31/EC inapplicable for temporary storage of metallic mercury for more than one year in above-ground facilities dedicated to and equipped for this purpose.

(6) **PARCOM** (Convention for the **Prevention of Marine Pollution from** Land-Based Sources) Decision 90/3 agreed to the objective of phasing out mercury cell chlor-alkali plants completely by 2010. In order to provide for possibilities of safe temporary storage of metallic mercury that is considered as waste, it is appropriate to derogate from Article 5(3)(a) of Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste for certain types of landfill, and to declare the criteria of section 2.4 of the Annex to Council Decision 2003/33/EC of 19 December 2002 establishing criteria and procedures for the acceptance of waste at landfills pursuant to Article 16 of and Annex II to Directive 1999/31/EC inapplicable for *retrievable*, temporary storage of metallic mercury in aboveground facilities dedicated to and equipped for this purpose.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 11.

Amendment 12 Recital 7

(7) For temporary storage of metallic mercury *for more than one year* in aboveground facilities dedicated to and equipped for this purpose, Council Directive (7) For temporary storage of metallic mercury in above-ground facilities dedicated to and equipped for this purpose, Council Directive 96/82/EC of

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96/82/EC of 9 December 1996 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances¹ should apply.

¹ OJ L 10, 14.1.1997, p. 13. Directive as last amended by *Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003*.

9 December 1996 on the control of majoraccident hazards involving dangerous substances¹ should apply.

¹ OJ L 10, 14.1.1997, p. 13. Directive as last amended by *Directive 2003/105/EC (OJ L 345, 31.12.2003, p. 97).*

Justification

Also directive 2003/105/EC (OJ L 345, 31.12.2003, p. 97–105) should be mentioned, since it amended Directive 96/82/EC.

Amendment 13 Recital 10 a (new)

> (10a) The chlor-alkali industry should send all relevant data related to the decommissioning of mercury cells in their plants to the Commission and the competent authorities of the Member States concerned to facilitate enforcement of this Regulation. The industry sectors that gain mercury from the cleaning of natural gas or as a by-product from nonferrous mining and smelting operations should also provide relevant data to the Commission and the competent authorities of the Member States concerned. The Commission should make this information publicly available.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 13.

Amendment 14 Recital 11

(11) Member States should submit information on permits issued for storage facilities as well as on the application and the market effects of this Regulation, in (11) Member States should submit information on permits issued for *temporary* storage facilities as well as on the application and the market effects of

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order to allow for an assessment thereof in due time. Importers, exporters and operators should submit information on movements and use of metallic mercury. this Regulation, in order to allow for an assessment thereof in due time. Importers, exporters and operators should submit information on movements and use of metallic mercury, *cinnabar ore and mercury compounds*.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 15.

Amendment 15 Recital 13

(13) It is appropriate to organise an exchange of information in order to assess the potential need for supplementary measures related to export, import *and* storage of mercury and *to* mercury compounds *and products containing mercury* without prejudice to the competition rules of the Treaty, in particular Article 81 thereof. (13) It is appropriate to organise an exchange of information *with all stakeholders* in order to assess the potential need for supplementary measures related to export, import, *temporary* storage *and safe final disposal* of mercury and mercury compounds without prejudice to the competition rules of the Treaty, in particular Article 81.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 14.

Amendment 16 Recital 13 a (new)

> (13a) Technical assistance should be provided directly by the Commission and the Member States to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially assistance which facilitates the shift towards alternative mercury-free technologies and the eventual phase-out of uses and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

Justification

Partly reinstating first reading Amendment 18.

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Amendment 17 Article 1

The export of metallic mercury (Hg, CAS 7439-97-6) from the Community shall be prohibited from *1 July 2011*.

The export of metallic mercury (Hg, CAS *RN* 7439-97-6), *cinnabar ore, and mercury compounds* from the Community shall be prohibited from *1 December 2010*.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 20

Amendment 18 Article 1, paragraph 1 a (new)

> The export of mercury-containing products banned from sale or distribution within the European Union shall be prohibited from 1 December 2010.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 21

Amendment 19 Article 1 a (new)

Article 1a

The import into the Community of metallic mercury (Hg, CAS RN 7439-97-6), cinnabar ore, and mercury compounds with a mercury concentration above 5% weight by weight (w/w) shall be prohibited from 1 December 2010.

Member States shall meet their own mercury requirements from recovery from wastes and raw products.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 22. The date has been changed to 1 December 2010 (same date as for the export ban).

From *1 July 2011*, metallic mercury that is no longer used in the chlor-alkali industry, metallic mercury *gained* from the cleaning of natural gas and metallic mercury from non-ferrous mining and smelting operations shall be considered waste and be *disposed of according to the provisions* of Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on waste in a way that is safe for human health and the environment.

From 1 December 2010, Member States shall ensure that metallic mercury that is no longer used in the chlor-alkali industry, or is extracted from cinnabar ore, metallic mercury *recovered* from the cleaning of natural gas and metallic mercury *recovered* from non-ferrous mining and smelting operations shall be considered waste and be *temporarily stored in accordance with* disposal operation D 15 as defined in Annex II A of Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on waste in a way that is safe for human health and the environment, and eventually disposed of within the *Community, in appropriate facilities that* qualify for that purpose, accompanied by a safety assessment and the relevant permit, pursuant to this Regulation.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 23

Amendment 21 Article 2, paragraph 1 a (new)

Prior to any other alternative, consideration shall be given to the possibility of using Almadén for the safe storage of the existing metallic mercury stocks or metallic mercury sub-produced by industry all over Europe, but not mercury-containing articles that have become waste, thus making use of the infrastructures, local manpower and technological expertise existing there.

Justification

Reinstates Amendment 24 from first reading.

Amendment 22 Article 4, paragraph 1

1. The safety assessment to be carried out in accordance with Decision 2003/33/EC for the *disposal* of metallic mercury according to Article 3 of this Regulation shall *cover in particular the additional* risks arising from the nature and long-term properties of the metallic mercury and its containment. 1. The safety assessment to be carried out in accordance with Decision 2003/33/EC for the *temporary storage* of metallic mercury according to Article 3 of this Regulation shall *ensure that the particular* risks arising from the nature and long-term properties of the metallic mercury and its containment *are covered*.

Justification

Ensures consistency with other amendments.

Amendment 23 Article 4, paragraph 3

3. The requirements for facilities listed in Article 3(1)(a) and (b) of this Regulation as well as acceptance criteria for metallic mercury, amending Annexes I, II and III of Directive 1999/31/EC, shall be adopted *according to* the procedure referred to in Article 16 of that Directive. The Commission shall make an appropriate proposal as soon as possible, and at the latest by *1 January 2010*. 3. The requirements for facilities listed in Article 3(1)(a) and (b) of this Regulation as well as acceptance criteria for metallic mercury, amending Annexes I, II and III of Directive 1999/31/EC, shall be adopted *in accordance with* the procedure referred to in Article 16 of that Directive. The Commission shall make an appropriate proposal as soon as possible, and at the latest by *1 July 2009, taking into account the outcome of the exchange of information pursuant to Article 7(1) and the report on research on safe disposal options pursuant to Article 7(2).*

Any final disposal operation (disposal operation D 12, as defined in Annex II A of Directive 2006/12/EC) concerning metallic mercury shall only be permitted after the date at which the amendment of Annexes I, II and III of Directive 1999/31/EC has been adopted.

Justification

The proposal should be ready at least six months before the entry into force of the export ban.

Amendment 24 Article 4 a (new)

Article 4a

During temporary storage, responsibility for safe storage shall lie with the owner of the storage facility. Member States shall set up a fund to ensure that financial resources are in place for the temporary storage and for the safe final disposal of mercury. The fund shall be created on the basis of fees from the relevant industry and sectors concerned as referred to in Article 2, proportional to the amount of mercury sent for temporary storage.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 29.

Amendment 25 Article 5, paragraph 1

1. Member States shall submit to the Commission a copy of any permit issued for a facility designated to store metallic mercury temporarily *or permanently* (disposal *operations* D 15 *or D 12 respectively*, as defined in Annex II A of Directive 2006/12/EC). 1. Member States shall submit to the Commission a copy of any permit issued for a facility designated to store metallic mercury temporarily (disposal *operation* D 15, as defined in Annex II A of Directive 2006/12/EC), accompanied by the respective safety assessment pursuant to Article 4(1) of this Regulation.

Amendment 26 Article 5, paragraph 2

2. By 1 July 2012, Member States shall inform the Commission on the application and market effects of this Regulation in their respective territories. Member States shall, upon request from the Commission, submit that information earlier than that date. 2. Member States shall draw up a register of buyers, sellers and traders of mercury, cinnabar ore and mercury compounds, and collect relevant information. Member States shall inform the Commission on the application and market effects of this Regulation in their respective territories every two years, within six months from the end of the period covered. The

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Commission shall publish the information in a concise report within one year from the submission by the Member States. The first set of information shall cover the years 2007 - 2008 and shall be submitted to the Commission by 1 July 2009, and made public by 1 July 2010. The information shall be provided in a format which shall be established by the Commission by ...*.

* One year after the entry into force of this Regulation.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 32.

Amendment 27 Article 5, paragraph 3

3. By 1 July 2012, importers, exporters and operators of activities referred to in Article 2, as appropriate, shall send to the Commission and to the competent authorities the following data:

(a) volumes, prices, originating country and destination country as well as the intended use of metallic mercury entering the Community;

(b) volumes, originating country and destination country of metallic mercury *considered waste that is* traded crossborder within the Community.

3. *The information referred to in paragraph 2 shall at least contain data on* the following:

(a) volumes, prices, originating country and destination country as well as the intended use of metallic mercury, *cinnabar ore and mercury compounds* entering *and leaving* the Community *until 1 December 2010*;

(b) volumes, originating country and destination country of metallic mercury, *cinnabar ore and mercury compounds* traded cross-border within the Community.

Justification

Ensures consistency with other amendments.

Amendment 28 Article 5 a (new)

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Article 5a

1. The companies concerned in the chloralkali industry shall send the following data related to the decommissioning of mercury in a given year to the Commission and the competent authorities of the Member States concerned:

- best estimate of total amount of mercury still in use,

- amount of mercury recovered upon closure or reconversion of chlor-alkali plants,

- amount sent to individual temporary storage facilities,

- location and contact details for all storage facilities,

- transfers to other chlor-alkali plants in the European Union for the operation of continuing cells,

- amount temporarily stored under the responsibility of the original owner for the operation of continuing cells.

2. The companies concerned in the industry sectors that gain mercury from the cleaning of natural gas or as a byproduct from non-ferrous mining and smelting operations shall provide the following data related to mercury gained in a given year to the Commission and the competent authorities of the Member States concerned:

- amount of mercury gained,

- amount sent to individual temporary storage facilities,

- location and contact details for all storage facilities.

3. The companies concerned shall send the data referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, as applicable, for the first time by 31 May ...*, and thereafter by 31 May each year.

4. The Commission shall make the information in paragraph 3 publicly available in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies¹.

* The year after entry into force of this Regulation. ¹ OJ L 264, 25.9.2006, p. 13.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 30.

Amendment 29 Article 7, paragraph 1

1. The Commission shall organise an exchange of information between the Member States and the *industries concerned*. This exchange of information shall, in particular, examine the *potential* need for: *extending the export ban to mercury compounds and products containing mercury; an import ban of metallic mercury, mercury compounds and products containing mercury;* extending the storage obligation to metallic mercury from other sources; and time limits concerning temporary storage of metallic mercury. 1. The Commission shall organise an *initial* exchange of information between the Member States and the *relevant stakeholders by 1 July 2010*. This exchange of information shall, in particular, examine the need for: extending the storage obligation to metallic mercury from other sources; and time limits concerning temporary storage of metallic mercury. *This initial exchange of information shall consider the research on safe disposal options, by 1 July 2009*.

Justification

Partly reinstating first reading Amendment 31.

Amendment 30 Article 7, paragraph 1 a (new)

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1a. The exchange of information shall inter alia analyse the results of the consideration given to Almadén as the site for the safe storage of existing metallic mercury stocks or metallic mercury subproduced by European industry in accordance with Article 2.

Amendment 31 Article 7, paragraph 2

2. The Commission shall keep under review ongoing research activities on safe disposal options, including solidification of metallic mercury. The Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council by *1 July 2010*. On the basis of this report, the Commission shall, if appropriate, present a proposal for a revision of this Regulation as soon as possible and not later than *1 July 2013*. 2. The Commission shall keep under review ongoing research activities on safe disposal options, including solidification of metallic mercury. The Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council by *1 January 2010*. On the basis of this report, the Commission shall, if appropriate, present a proposal for a revision of this Regulation as soon as possible and not later than *1 July 2012*.

Justification

Partly reinstating first reading Amendment 31.

Amendment 32 Article 7, paragraph 3

3. The Commission shall assess the application and market effects of this Regulation in the Community, taking into account the information referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 and in *Article 5*.

3. The Commission shall assess the application and market effects of this Regulation in the Community, taking into account the information referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 and in *Articles 5 and 5a*.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 36.

Amendment 33 Article 7, paragraph 4

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4. The Commission shall submit a report, if appropriate accompanied by a proposal for a revision of this Regulation, to the European Parliament and the Council *by 1 July 2013* which shall reflect and evaluate the outcome of the information exchange referred to in paragraph 1 and of the assessment referred to in paragraph 3.

4. The Commission shall submit a report, if appropriate accompanied by a proposal for a revision of this Regulation, to the European Parliament and the Council *as soon as possible but no later than 1 July 2012* which shall reflect and evaluate the outcome of the information exchange referred to in paragraph 1 and of the assessment referred to in paragraph 3, *as well as the report referred to in paragraph 2*.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 36.

Amendment 34 Article 7, paragraph 5

5. The Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council by *1 July 2010* on progress in multilateral activities and negotiations on mercury, assessing in particular the consistency of the timing and scope of the measures specified in this Regulation with international developments.

5. The Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council by *31 December 2009 at the latest* on progress in multilateral activities and negotiations on mercury, assessing in particular the consistency of the timing and scope of the measures specified in this Regulation with international developments.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 37.

Amendment 35 Article 7 a (new)

Article 7a

The Commission and the Member States shall, taking into account in particular the needs of affected developing countries and countries with economies in transition, cooperate in promoting technical assistance, including training, for the development of the infrastructure, the capacity and the expertise necessary

in order to make progress in the shift towards alternative mercury-free technologies and to eventually phase out uses and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

Justification

Reinstating first reading Amendment 38.

Amendment 36 Article 8

Until *1 July 2011*, Member States may maintain national measures restricting the export of metallic mercury which were adopted in line with Community legislation before the adoption of this Regulation. Until *1 December 2010*, Member States may maintain national measures restricting the export *or import* of metallic mercury, *cinnabar ore and mercury compounds and the export of certain mercurycontaining products*, which were adopted in line with Community legislation before the adoption of this Regulation.

Justification

Ensures consistency with earlier amendments.

Title	The banning of exports and the safe storage of metallic mercury
References	11488/1/2007 – C6-0034/2008 – 2006/0206(COD)
Date of Parliament's first reading – P number	20.6.2007 T6-0267/2007
Commission proposal	COM(2006)0636 - C6-0363/2006
Date receipt of common position announced in plenary	31.1.2008
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	ENVI 31.1.2008
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Dimitrios Papadimoulis 28.11.2006
Discussed in committee	26.2.2008
Date adopted	26.3.2008
Result of final vote	+: 49 -: 1 0: 8
Members present for the final vote	Adamos Adamou, Georgs Andrejevs, Margrete Auken, Liam Aylward, Pilar Ayuso, Irena Belohorská, Johannes Blokland, John Bowis, Frieda Brepoels, Hiltrud Breyer, Martin Callanan, Magor Imre Csibi, Chris Davies, Avril Doyle, Mojca Drčar Murko, Edite Estrela, Jill Evans, Anne Ferreira, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Matthias Groote, Françoise Grossetête, Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Satu Hassi, Gyula Hegyi, Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Caroline Jackson, Christa Klaß, Holger Krahmer, Urszula Krupa, Aldis Kušķis, Peter Liese, Marios Matsakis, Roberto Musacchio, Riitta Myller, Miroslav Ouzký, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Guido Sacconi, Karin Scheele, Richard Seeber, María Sornosa Martínez, Antonios Trakatellis, Evangelia Tzampazi, Thomas Ulmer, Marcello Vernola, Anja Weisgerber, Åsa Westlund, Anders Wijkman, Glenis Willmott
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Iles Braghetto, Bairbre de Brún, Milan Gal'a, Jutta Haug, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Justas Vincas Paleckis, Guido Podestà
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez