

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Groundwater protection and management: Community action programme	
Subject 3.70.04 Water control and management, pollution of waterways, water pollution	

Key players	
European Parliament	
Council of the European Union	

Key events			
09/07/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0315	Summary
20/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
23/07/1999	Additional information		Summary
11/12/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/12/2001	Additional information		Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/0181(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175-p3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/08219

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(1996)0315 OJ C 355 25.11.1996, p. 0001	10/07/1996	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0107/1997 OJ C 089 19.03.1997, p. 0034	29/01/1997	ESC	Summary

Groundwater protection and management: Community action programme

OBJECTIVE: the objective of the European Parliament and Council Decision is to establish an action programme for the protection and integrated management of groundwater, aiming at preventing further pollution, maintaining the quality of unpolluted groundwater, restoring, where appropriate, polluted groundwater, as well as preventing the over-exploitation of groundwater resources. **SUBSTANCE:** the programme should function as a frame of reference for the focusing of action, and as a forum for exchange of information which should facilitate concerted action by Member States and the Community. The four main lines of the programme are as follows: 1) - development of Community principles for integrated planning and management of water protection and use for application on a national level with respect to a long-term view of applying a river basin management approach to groundwater management in order to ensure the quality and quantity of groundwater; 2) - ensuring rules for quantitative maintenance of fresh water resources, including a rational regulatory framework for fresh water abstraction; 3) - development of instruments for control of groundwater pollution from diffuse sources, including codes of good practice, and consideration of longer term measures for further integration of sustainable water protection and management and agricultural policy; 4) - development of instruments for control of point source emissions and discharges, including a rational regulatory framework and incentives for development of environmentally friendly production processes and procedures. These four lines of action should be supported by research and development programmes at the level of the Community as well as appropriate national initiatives. In order to ensure common water management principles the Commission intends, at the end of 1996, to present a proposal for a Framework Directive on water resources in which basic provisions for management of groundwater will be included. ?

Groundwater protection and management: Community action programme

The opinion makes a number of general comments on: - the importance of uniform monitoring by the Commission to ensure the correct application of Community policy; - the need for Community reference framework for responsibility for environmental damage; - binding limits for dangerous substances to which priority is attached under the current legislation; - funding for the proposed measures. In conclusion, the Committee recommends that: - the action plan be incorporated into the framework directive on water resources and that respective levels of responsibility be clearly defined, bearing in mind the recommendations made in the ESC Opinion on the Communication on European Community water policy; - information and data compilation systems be developed under the guidance of the European Agency; - back-up measures, specially geared to informing and educating the public and training administrative officers and economic operators (particularly farmers and consumers), be provided for. ?

Groundwater protection and management: Community action programme

This proposal, which in accordance with Article 185 of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure was deemed to have lapsed, is to be subject to consideration by the new Parliament (5th legislature).?

Groundwater protection and management: Community action programme

The Directorates General or responsible departments have asked for this proposal to be withdrawn. The reasons are indicated as follows: A) for objective reasons (change of de facto situation, objectives already achieved by other means, etc) B) because the Commission has now adopted another approach : - the proposal is replaced implicitly, - a new proposal is in preparation, - no planned replacement.?