

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	1998/0289(COD) Procedure completed
Incineration of waste Repealing Directive 94/67/EC Repealed by	1992/0406(SYN) 2007/0286(COD)
Subject 3.70.12 Waste management, domestic waste, packaging, light industrial waste	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DELE EP Delegation to Conciliation Committee		25/08/2000
		EDD BLOKLAND Johannes	
	Former committee responsible		
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		25/11/1998
	I-EDN BLOKLAND Johannes		
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		25/11/1998
		I-EDN BLOKLAND Johannes	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2309	20/11/2000
	Budget	2223	25/11/1999
	Environment	2194	24/06/1999

Key events			
29/10/1998	Legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0558	Summary
14/12/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
30/03/1999	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
30/03/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0183/1999	
13/04/1999	Debate in Parliament		
14/04/1999	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0308/1999	Summary

05/05/1999	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
06/05/1999	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0421/1999	Summary
12/07/1999	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0330	Summary
26/11/1999	Council position published	11472/1/1999	Summary
02/12/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
23/02/2000	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
23/02/2000	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0056/2000	
14/03/2000	Debate in Parliament		
15/03/2000	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0100/2000	Summary
25/08/2000	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
11/10/2000	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		
11/10/2000	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		Summary
11/10/2000	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3641/2000	
26/10/2000	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A5-0321/2000	
15/11/2000	Debate in Parliament		
16/11/2000	Decision by Parliament, 3rd reading	T5-0512/2000	Summary
20/11/2000	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
04/12/2000	Final act signed		
04/12/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/12/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/0289(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
	Repealing Directive 94/67/EC 1992/0406(SYN) Repealed by 2007/0286(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 52-p1; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/5/13562

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1998)0558	29/10/1998	EC	Summary
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		OJ C 372 02.12.1998, p. 0011			
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0200/1999 OJ C 116 28.04.1999, p. 0040	25/02/1999	ESC	
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0447/1998 OJ C 198 14.07.1999, p. 0037	10/03/1999	CofR	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0183/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0008	30/03/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0308/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0176-0264	14/04/1999	EP	Summary
Reconsultation		SEC(1999)0581	28/04/1999	EC	
Text adopted by Parliament confirming position adopted at 1st reading		T4-0421/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0253-0274	06/05/1999	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(1999)0330 OJ C 150 30.05.2000, p. 0001	12/07/1999	EC	Summary
Council position		11472/1/1999 OJ C 025 28.01.2000, p. 0017	26/11/1999	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position		SEC(1999)1971	30/11/1999	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0056/2000 OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0006	23/02/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0100/2000 OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0046-0149	15/03/2000	EP	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading		COM(2000)0280	06/07/2000	EC	Summary
Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs		3641/2000	11/10/2000	CSL/EP	
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading		A5-0321/2000 OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0008	26/10/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading		T5-0512/2000 OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0192-0283	16/11/2000	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Directive 2000/76](#)
[OJ L 332 28.12.2000, p. 0091](#) Summary

Incineration of waste

PURPOSE: the proposed directive seeks to integrate the technical progress that has been made in the control of incineration processes and to extend the scope of existing Community measures to combat the pollution of air, water and land caused by the incineration of municipal and other non-hazardous wastes. **CONTENT:** the proposal's key objectives are to: - reduce substantially emissions of several key pollutants to air and control releases to water and land; - provide a major contribution to the achievement of the target contained in the Fifth Environment

Action Programme to reduce emissions of dioxins and furans from known sources by 90% between 1985 and 2005 with a specific objective to introduce standards for dioxin and furan emissions for municipal waste incineration; - contribute to a reduction in releases of heavy metals; - provide a coherent methodology for the regulation and operation of non-hazardous waste incineration and co-incineration (the incineration of wastes in industrial plants, whose main purpose is to generate energy or produce material products and which incinerate waste as regular or additional fuel). The main elements of the proposed Directive include: - the extension of the scope of the existing legislation to cover the incineration of non-hazardous non-municipal wastes as well as hazardous wastes excluded from the Directive on hazardous waste incineration (94/67/EC); - the introduction of emission limits for plants that co-incinerate waste; - the updating of emission limits applicable to municipal waste incineration plants and the addition of limits on releases to water in order to reduce substantially the environmental impact of incineration and contribute to emission reductions and air quality targets, while preventing a transfer of pollutants to water; - the requirement that, as far as possible, heat generated in the incineration process shall be recovered and residues shall be prevented, reduced or recycled.?

Incineration of waste

A single directive will apply to the incineration of both hazardous and non-hazardous waste, as the result of the vote on a report by Hans BLOKLAND (I-EDN, NL) in the Committee. There was considerable disagreement over whether or not this merging of two Commission proposals should be welcomed. Two French MEPs, Marie-Noëlle LIENEMANN (PES) and Françoise GROSSETÊTE (EPP), were opposed to the move because they feared it would mean weaker emission standards for hazardous waste. But both the rapporteur and the Commission representative explained that merging the two proposals would lead to more transparent and consistent rules. Amendments had been tabled to ensure that hazardous waste would be properly processed. Twenty-two MEPs then voted for the first of the "merging" amendments, with 11 against and 3 abstentions. In the end, a clear majority was in favour of the draft legislative proposal and the draft report, although most members of the EPP were against it. The committee adopted a wide range of amendments: - the directive will now cover hazardous as well as non-hazardous waste; - hazardous waste will be described in detail so that the incineration and treatment process can be adapted; - the definition of a "co-incineration plant" has been improved to prevent any legalistic escape clause: this means that plants which treat waste thermally come under the directive, regardless of whether they only "reduce" the waste or not; - small plants (under 50 MWth) were excluded from emission limit values under the Commission proposal: the Environment Committee voted to include them; - a standard for ammonia was added as this is a substance that is often emitted by cement kilns; - new plants will have to use combined heat and power. The amendments of the Green Group seeking to reduce the emission limit values for dioxins by 90 percent were not accepted. The rapporteur pointed out that the Commission proposal would already lead to an enormous reduction - from 2400 g/year now to 10 g/year EU-wide two years after the directive has come into force. ?

Incineration of waste

Adopting the report by Johannes Blokland (I-EDN,NL), the European Parliament considers that the incineration of hazardous and non-hazardous waste should be the subject of a single directive with common emission limit values. The directive should contribute to the achievement of the overall objective defined by European waste policy: prevention, recycling, incineration with energy use and final disposal. According to the adopted amendments, hazardous waste is defined in greater detail, in order that the incineration and treatment processes can be adapted. The definition of "coincineration plant" has been improved in order to eliminate any possibility of escaping the legislation. Plants which thermally treat waste come under the directive, regardless of whether they only reduce the waste or not. The Parliament calls for more rigorous emission limit values than those proposed by the Commission, notably with regard to nitrous oxide (NOx), dust and ammonia. It demands that, in certain cases, yet more stringent standards than those set by the directive may be imposed for discharges into the atmosphere as for discharges into water. The Parliament requests that the issuing of permits for incineration plants should be subject to certain conditions (eg. the existence of a regional waste plan; the region has implemented other measures to reduce the volume of waste, systems for sorting and phasing out dangerous components and the introduction of pre-sorting). Furthermore, the issuing of new permits should be forbidden in regions where the environmental quality standards are in danger of being exceeded. The Parliament insists that plants which become operational after 31/12/2003 should seek to recover the heat generated during the incineration process as far as possible, namely by means of combined heat and power generation, the generating of process steam or district heating.?

Incineration of waste

Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam on 01/05/99, the European Parliament confirmed as its first reading under codecision procedure its vote of 14/04/99 on the proposal for a Council directive on the incineration of waste.?

Incineration of waste

This amended proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on the incineration of waste, adopted pursuant to Article 250 (2) of the Treaty, takes account of a number of amendments that the European Parliament adopted at its plenary session on 14 April 1999. The main amendment accepted concerns the merger of the proposal for a Directive on the incineration of waste and Directive 94/67/EC on the incineration of hazardous waste. This merger subsequently introduces an emission limit value for nitrogen oxides and tightens some emission limit values for heavy metals for plants incinerating or co-incinerating hazardous waste only. Article 14 of Directive 94/67/EC foresees that any emission value established following a revision of that Directive shall not apply to existing incineration or co-incineration plants before 31/12/2006. It is therefore necessary to include a transition period for existing incineration or co-incineration only hazardous waste according to this Article. As a consequence of this merger it is also necessary to add the definition of hazardous waste to the text and to determine which Directive shall apply for plants incinerating or co-incinerating hazardous waste after the implementation of the Proposal and before the Directive 94/67/EC is repealed. In addition to the above-mentioned transition period to harmonise the standards of non-hazardous and hazardous waste the following provisions have been modified or introduced, compared to Directive 94/67/EC, for plants only incinerating or co-incinerating hazardous waste : - the calculation of the "total emission limit value" has been facilitated by introducing fixed "total emission limit values" for certain kilns and so called "Cprocess values" and "total emission limit values" for combustion plants (Annex II.2); - a new

Annex IV provides for emission limit values for discharges from the cleaning of exhaust gases. The Commission also accepts the amendment underlining that the protection of health must be given priority over economic considerations as well as the amendment which broadens the definition of co-incineration plants by clarifying that it means any stationary or mobile plant whose main purpose is the generation of energy or production of material products and which thermally treats wastes with the exception of treatments dedicated to the recovery of the metal content of the waste and to the cleaning of tools. It is worth noting that the Commission rejected these amendments which aim notably at : - the introduction of waste management elements; - establishing links with air and water quality standards; - changing the emission limit values for incineration or co-incineration plants; - requiring that the heat generated in an incineration process or a co-incineration process be systematically recovered.?

Incineration of waste

The Council's common position, whilst generally maintaining the approach proposed by the Commission, has added a series of provisions aiming either to strengthen or clarify the text. As requested by the European Parliament, the Council agreed to merge : - the existing Directive concerning the incineration of hazardous waste; - the Commission's proposal amending the Directive (which introduces emission limit values and associated conditions for the treatment of waste water); - the Commission's proposal on the incineration of waste to strengthen the provisions contained in existing legislation on municipal waste incineration, on the one hand, and to cover waste not within the scope of the existing Directive on the incineration of hazardous waste, on the other. Concerning the merge and subject to a specified transition period for NO_x and heavy metal emissions caused by the incineration of hazardous waste, the Council accepted that for hazardous and non-hazardous waste the same emission limit values apply. More stringent provisions are maintained concerning the reception and storage purposes. New elements which have been introduced by the Council are based on the following points : - scope : the Council decided it was appropriate to consider vegetable waste from the food processing industry and cork waste biomass and, therefore, excluded them from the scope of the Directive; - definitions: the Council specified the notions of "dangerous waste", "mixed municipal waste", "co-incineration plant", "existing incineration plant", and "nominal capacity"; - application and permit: Member States who wish to do so may list the types of waste in the permit which can be co-incinerated in defined categories of such plants; if an operator of a plant incinerating non-hazardous waste envisages starting also to incinerate hazardous waste, the permit must be adapted according to provisions in the Directive relating to the integrated prevention and the reduction of pollution; - operating conditions: the Council added conditions for the co-incineration of hazardous waste and added an exemption clause for existing bark boilers, a provision to ensure the secure handling of infectious clinical waste and a provision aiming to ensure that the management of the plants shall be in the hands of a competent natural person; - water discharges from the cleaning of exhaust gases: the common position specifies that the waste waters to be dealt with concern only those resulting from the cleaning of exhaust gases. It underlines that if the waste waters are treated outside the plant this should be done according to strict conditions including, for example, the prohibition of dilution. Moreover, the Council added an optional provision for Member States to set emission limit values for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) or other pollutants; - measurement requirements: the Council added the same optional clause for air, as it did for water. It also added another optional clause allowing competent authorities to issue a permit allowing the possibility to reduce the periodic measurement for heavy metals and dioxins and furans, but only under very strict conditions. After 2005, however, such derogations can only be authorised if the emissions are 50% below the emission limit values and if specific criteria have been developed according to the Committee procedure provided for by the Directive. The Council introduced a 97% daily average value over the year for the carbon monoxide emission limit value mentioned in Annex V(e). Finally, the compliance figures and limit values for emissions into water have been changed to offer an alternative both for total suspended solids and heavy metals. The Council added a review clause asking the Commission to report before the end of 2008 both to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of the proposed Directive and the experience and progress achieved since its implementation, to be accompanied, if appropriate, by proposals for revision. On the subject of transitional provisions, the Council added a new paragraph 3 to clarify that plants, which are producing products or generating energy and which have a permit where required by Community legislation, shall, if they start to co-incinerate waste not later than 4 years after the entry into force of the Directive, be regarded as existing co-incineration plants. The Council has also made a certain number of amendments to the Annexes.?

Incineration of waste

The Commission considers that the common position does not alter the objectives and the technical approach which were at the basis of the proposal, and that it enables us to clarify and reinforce certain aspects of it. Therefore, it supports the common position.?

Incineration of waste

The committee adopted the recommendation for second reading (codecision procedure) by Hans BLOKLAND (EDD, NL) amending the Council's common position on the directive on waste incineration. The Council and Commission had accepted Parliament's suggestion made at first reading in April 1999 that the two proposed directives on the incineration of hazardous and non-hazardous waste be merged. The committee felt that the common position provided a good framework for legislation. However, if the objectives of improving air quality and health were to be met, it was necessary to amend the scope of the directive and the definitions, measurement requirements and emission standards proposed. The rapporteur stressed the importance of this - very technical - issue because of the effects of incineration on public health and air quality throughout the Community. Constant emission standards and clear rules for outputs were needed. The same rules should apply to all incineration plants. The committee adopted an important compromise amendment demanding that a number of incineration plants be excluded from the directive, namely those treating only vegetable waste from agriculture and forestry, vegetable waste from the food processing industry and fibrous waste from sorting, screening and washing of virgin pulp and paper production. Wood waste, it said, should also be excluded but with the exception of waste that might contain halogenated organic compounds or heavy metals as result of coating. Also excluded were cork waste, radio-active waste and waste from off-shore oil and gas installations. As regards the combined incineration of waste in cement kilns, the committee wanted a stricter limit for nitrogen oxides for new plants (500 mg/m³ instead of 800 mg/m³). The same amendment called for a longer deadline for exceptions, saying that the period for which authorities should allow a nitrogen oxide limit of 1200 mg/m³ for small plants that incinerate less than 3t of waste per hour should run up to 2010 rather than 2008 as envisaged by the Council. Other important amendments called for plans for incineration plants to be better publicised and for dioxin samples to be taken more frequently. Whereas the Council wanted at least two measurements of dioxins to be taken per year, the committee wanted even tougher controls. If categories of waste were used which were more likely to produce dioxins, or if the periodic dioxin measurements justified more extensive

monitoring, samples should be taken at least every three months. The committee also called for mercury and ammonia levels to be constantly monitored, as already happened in Germany and Denmark. ?

Incineration of waste

The European Parliament has adopted the report drafted by Mr. Johannes BLOKLAND (EDD, Neth) for a resolution on the common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a European Parliament and Council Directive on the incineration of waste. This report was subject to amendments and the addition of new Articles. The new Articles put in place relate to: - the Directive on waste management plans including plans for the pre-sorting of waste intended for incineration which is said to be needed in order to supplement the Community strategy for waste management; - the Directive shall be without prejudice to other Community legislation on waste and on protecting health and safety of workers at incineration plants; - the incineration or co-incineration plants: if an incineration or co-incineration plant does not comply with the conditions of the permit, in particular with the emission limit values for air and water, the competent authority shall take action to enforce compliance. Furthermore, the amendments which are included in this report relate to: - the Directive is intended to contribute towards attaining the overriding goal of European waste policy, particularly in terms of waste hierarchy: prevention, recycling, incineration with energy use and final disposal; - the incineration of vegetable waste from the food processing industry; - the total organic carbon (TOC) content, minus the content of elemental carbon, is less than 3% or their loss on ignition is less than 5% of the dry weight of the material; - the date for the exemption for NOx shall now be 1 January 2007 and the date for the exemption of dust shall be the same.?

Incineration of waste

The Amended proposal on the incineration of waste seeks to replace the three existing Directives 89/369, 89/429, 94/67 on the incineration of municipal waste and hazardous waste and to extend the scope of Community legislation on incineration. Out of the 16 amendments adopted by the European Parliament, the Commission has accepted six of them in full, two in part and one in principle. The amendments accepted by the Commission related in particular to: - the changing of the scope of the future of the Directive which proposes to exclude certain clean biomass to support the use of alternative sources of energy; - the addition of some examples of heat recovery from the text; - strengthening the requirement for the delivery and reception of waste; - the clarification that for some hazardous waste the retention time at 1,100°C is 2 seconds; - the addition of a new emission limit value for NOx of 500 mg for new cement kilns co-incinerating waste. This figure is in line with the cost-benefit evaluation done for the Commission. On the other hand, the amendments not accepted by the Commission include those which: - seek to include waste management elements; - seek to introduce links with air and water quality standards; - seeks to provide for higher combustion temperatures for non-hazardous waste; - seeks to introduce an interpretation of hazardous waste which does not exist in waste legislation; - seeks to reduce the extra transition period provided for in annex II for certain cement kilns by one year.?

Incineration of waste

The Conciliation Committee reached agreement on a joint text for the directive following the provisional agreement at triologue level on 12 July 2000. The main elements of the agreement were: (a) a compromise regarding the scope of the directive: agreeing on exemptions had been one of the most difficult issues in the negotiations. Parliament wanted to limit seven exemptions as far as possible and provide for them to be clearly defined in order to avoid any ambiguity in the directive's future application. It was agreed to limit the exclusion of plants treating vegetable waste from food processing to those where the heat generated is recovered. Parliament also secured an exemption for fibrous waste from virgin pulp production and from paper produced from pulp if it is co-incinerated. A compromise text was also agreed concerning exemptions for radioactive waste and animal carcasses; (b) much stricter NOx-emission limit values (500mg/m³) for all new co-incineration plants; (c) improved access to information for the public: despite considerable resistance from Council, it was agreed that all incineration plants which incinerate more than two tonnes of waste per hour must publish an annual report including information on the plant's emissions. All smaller plants have to be included in a list which will be made available to the public. ?

Incineration of waste

By adopting the resolution drafted by Mr Hans BLOKLAND (EDD, NI), the Parliament approved an agreement reached in conciliation on a legislative proposal designed to reduce environmental hazards from waste incineration plants. (Please refer to the previous step in the legislative process, in particular, the decisions of the committee responsible). COD980289 16/11/00 COD EN By adopting the resolution drafted by Mr Hans BLOKLAND (EDD, NI), the Parliament approved an agreement reached in conciliation on a legislative proposal designed to reduce environmental hazards from waste incineration plants. (Please refer to the previous step in the legislative process, in particular, the decisions of the committee responsible). ?

Incineration of waste

PURPOSE : to prevent or limit as far as practicable negative effects on the environment, in particular pollution by emissions into air, soil, surface water and groundwater, and the resulting risks to human health, from the incineration and co-incineration of waste. **COMMUNITY MEASURE** : Directive 2000/76/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. **CONTENT** : the aim of this Directive shall be met by means of stringent operational conditions and technical requirements, through setting emission limit values for waste incineration and co-incineration plants within the Community. In addition, the monitoring of waste water shall permit, for the first time, the reduction of pollution in marine ecosystems and soft water caused by incineration. The reductions shall concern in particular acid gases, such as nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), heavy metals and dioxins. Cadmium emissions in the European Union should decrease from 16 tonnes per year in 1995 to 1.1 tonnes in 2005, and for mercury from 36 tonnes per year in 1995 to 7.1 tonnes in 2002. The following plants shall however be excluded from the scope of this Directive, these include plants treating : vegetable waste from agriculture and forestry; vegetable waste from

virgin pulp production and from production of paper from pulp; wood waste; cork waste; radioactive waste; animal carcasses; waste resulting from the exploration for, and the exploitation of, oil and gas resources from off-shore installations and incinerated on board the installation.
ENTRY INTO FORCE : 28/12/2000. DEADLINE SET FOR TRANSPOSITION : 28/12/2002.?