


# Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1999/0077(CNS)	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Baltic Sea, Helsinki Convention 1974: protection of marine environment		
Subject 3.70.05 Marine and coastal pollution, pollution from ships, oil pollution		
Geographical area Baltic Sea area		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		02/09/1999
		GUE/NGL <a href="#">SJÖSTEDT Jonas</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
Council of the European Union	<b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events			
17/03/1999	Legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0128	Summary
03/05/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/09/1999	Additional information		Summary
18/10/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
18/10/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A5-0044/1999</a>	
01/12/1999	Debate in Parliament		
02/12/1999	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0133/1999</a>	Summary
11/12/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/12/2001	Additional information		Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/0077(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure

Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p2-a1; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p3-a1; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 174-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/10909

#### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		<a href="#">COM(1999)0128</a> <a href="#">OJ C 176 22.06.1999, p. 0015</a>	17/03/1999	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A5-0044/1999</a> <a href="#">OJ C 158 07.06.2000, p. 0008</a>	18/10/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T5-0133/1999</a> <a href="#">OJ C 194 11.07.2000, p. 0016-0066</a>	02/12/1999	EP	Summary

#### Additional information

European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>
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## Baltic Sea, Helsinki Convention 1974: protection of marine environment

**PURPOSE:** the approval, in the name of the Community, of the amendments to the Annexes to the Helsinki Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area. **CONTENT:** Since 1974, the Community has been party to the Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention), revised in 1992. In March 1998, several amendments were made to the Annexes of this Convention as follow: 1) Prevention of pollution from agriculture and the introduction of environmental permits; 2) Prevention of pollution from shipping (introduction of a compulsory system whereby ships would be required to deliver all garbage to a port reception facility and setting strict standards regarding the equipment to be used by certain categories of ships for the discharge of their sewage). In its role as contracting party, the Commission is required to approve these amendments since, in accordance with the Convention, they are applicable to all the parties at the end of a period fixed by the Helsinki Commission (in this case 01.01.1999). This proposal for a decision specifically seeks to incorporate these amendments so that they are applicable to the Community.?

## Baltic Sea, Helsinki Convention 1974: protection of marine environment

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

## Baltic Sea, Helsinki Convention 1974: protection of marine environment

The committee adopted the report by Jonas SJÖSTEDT (GUE/NGL, S) approving the amendments to the Annexes to the Helsinki Convention on which Parliament had been consulted under Article 300 of the EC Treaty. It welcomed the amendments and believed that the Convention could give fresh impetus to improved environmental cooperation in Europe and within the EU. It noted, however, that there was no analysis of the possible impact of the amendments on current EU legislation or of whether EU legislation in preparation (for example, Agenda 2000) might affect the Community's commitments under the Helsinki Convention. Lastly, it pointed out that Parliament had been consulted only after the amendments had been adopted by tacit acceptance, and called for the Article 300 consultation procedure to be amended to bring Parliament into the decision-making procedure at an earlier stage.?

## Baltic Sea, Helsinki Convention 1974: protection of marine environment

Under the consultation procedure, Parliament approved its opinion drafted by Mr. Jonas SJÖSTEDT (GUE/NGL, Sweden). Parliament made no amendments to the Commission's proposal.?

## Baltic Sea, Helsinki Convention 1974: protection of marine environment

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.?