

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Trans-European networks: electricity and natural gas domain. Declaration of European interest	
Subject 3.60.06 Trans-European energy networks	

Key players	
European Parliament	
Council of the European Union	

Key events			
23/02/1992	Legislative proposal published	COM(1992)0015	Summary
06/04/1992	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
05/11/1992	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
04/11/1992	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A3-0351/1992	
19/11/1992	Debate in Parliament		Summary
20/11/1992	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T3-0694/1992	Summary
18/04/1993	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1993)0115	Summary
23/11/1993	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
22/11/1993	Committee report tabled for plenary confirming Parliament's position	A3-0363/1993	
02/12/1993	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T3-0680/1993	Summary
17/12/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/12/1998	Additional information		Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1992/0497(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation

Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 129D-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	ENER/3/05026; ENER/3/03574

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1992)0015	24/02/1992	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0803/1992 OJ C 287 04.11.1992, p. 0012	01/07/1992	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A3-0351/1992 OJ C 337 21.12.1992, p. 0008	05/11/1992	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T3-0694/1992 OJ C 337 21.12.1992, p. 0258-0284	20/11/1992	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(1993)0115	19/04/1993	EC	Summary
Reconsultation		COM(1993)0570	10/11/1993	EC	
Committee final report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A3-0363/1993 OJ C 342 20.12.1993, p. 0002	23/11/1993	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament confirming position adopted at 1st reading		T3-0680/1993 OJ C 342 20.12.1993, p. 0014-0029	02/12/1993	EP	Summary

Trans-European networks: electricity and natural gas domain. Declaration of European interest

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The development of trans-European telecommunications, electricity, natural gas and transport networks was of vital importance for the Community, in particular in order to eliminate existing bottlenecks and gaps in infrastructure. The Commission intended to grant infrastructure projects in these three sectors 'a declaration of European interest' in order to improve the general conditions for the implementation of these networks. The purpose of the 'declaration of European interest' would be to let the public know that the implementation of the project in question was of interest from the point of view of integration. It would be granted only to projects covered by one of the trans-European networks whose configuration was to be decided by the Community under the Treaty on European Union, when it had entered into force. The three rapporteurs, Joaquin Sisó Cruellas (PPE, E) (telecommunications) Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE, E) (electricity, natural gas) and Manuel Porto (LDR, P) (transport), requested that projects eligible for the declaration of European interest be put forward by any Member State concerned or by regional or local authorities. They hoped that in cases where the declaration was granted, the Commission would consider, in accordance with the provisions governing the appropriate instrument, whether the project concerned was eligible for support from one of the Community's financial instruments. They also called for the Member States to be invited to consider what financial or fiscal advantages could be given to projects to which this declaration had been granted. The rapporteurs stressed that the project must have direct economic and social benefits in the Community and help to strengthen economic and social cohesion. Where the project required an environmental impact study, it must show that the impact of the project on the environment was acceptable. For projects of a transfrontier nature, the environmental impact study must be carried out on a transfrontier basis. Commissioner Van Miert responded to Members who had called for the European Parliament to be involved in the infrastructure committee by saying that it was not advisable. The Commission had to consult the national administrations and the sectors involved in order to draw up a proposal for a directive or a regulation. It was only at the following stage that the European Parliament joined in and took a decision. With regard to the regions and the Committee of the Regions, even though the Committee had only consultative status, it would be able to make its influence felt. As regards the effect of the declaration of European interest, the Commissioner pointed out that the Commission had the power to give the label, but it was for the Member States to decide whether or not to grant financial support to these projects. With regard to procedures and time limits, the Commissioner agreed that the Commission would comply with the time limits, but asked for these to start six months after the full dossier had been submitted to the Commission. Parliament adopted the report by Mr Sisó Cruellas, Mr Robles Piquer and Mr Porto.?

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Following the opinion of the European Parliament, the Commission amended its proposals as follows: - in cases where the declaration of European interest was granted, the Commission would examine whether the project was eligible for support under one of the Community's financial instruments; - a candidate project could be presented by any interested Member State, by regional or local authorities or by one or several promoters; - following evaluation of the projects by the Commission, the Member States concerned would forward their comments within a maximum of three months; - interested parties would have a period of two months from the publication of projects in the OJ EC to forward any comments to the Commission; - the grant of the declaration of European interest would take place within six months of the date on which a full dossier was submitted to the Commission; - the Commission would inform the EP annually of projects adopted or rejected, specifying the reasons for such rejection. It would take account of progress achieved in the area of energy infrastructure when drawing up Community energy policy guidelines; - projects should have direct positive effects in the Community and include a description of the economic and social benefits expected. The Commission could not, however, accept the amendments advocating: - inviting the Member States to examine whether projects could be eligible for financial or tax concessions; - amending eligibility conditions, by providing that the project's environmental impact must be acceptable and that the environmental impact study must be carried out outside Community borders in cross-border projects involving a third country.?

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In its first reading under the codecision procedure, the European Parliament confirmed its vote of 20 November 1992. ?

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This proposal was withdrawn by the Commission because it was no longer considered to be of relevance. ?