Energy policy: energy performance of the buidings of the Union, energy saves and efficiency

2001/0098(COD) - 11/06/2002 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Commission feels that the common position has succeeded in retaining the spirit and intention of the Commission proposal and of a very large part of the amendments of the European Parliament. A workable and acceptable balance has been reached in defining the type, scopes and thresholds for action set forth in the Commission proposal. The high degree of subsidiarity required in the building sector due to different climactic and technical considerations has also been adequately addressed in the common position. The use of alternative calculation methods and alternative means of compliance, along with appropriate conditions also presents a suitable balance. The longer validity period for energy performance certificates and the higher thresholds and somewhat reduced scope for boiler inspection are also acceptable. As regards the issues raised by Parliament in relation to social housing, the increased use of air conditioning, measuring energy performance, the distinction between new and existing buildings and the methodology and scope for certificates, the Commission believes that these too, as expressed in the common position, are very much in line with the amendments adopted by the Parliament. The Commission has asked that a statement be inserted in the Common position regarding the entry into force of the Directive. It feels that 7 years for certain provisions is too long.?