

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(92) 553 final - SYN 398

Brussels, 15 December 1992

Amended proposal for a

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the
approximation of the laws of the Member States
relating to measures to be taken against
air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles

(presented by the Commission pursuant to Article 149(3)
of the EEC-Treaty)

Explanatory Memorandum

- A. On 20 March 1992 the Commission sent to the Council a proposal for a directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles.

On 29 October 1992, the European Parliament approved the proposal in the first reading, subject to 10 amendments. The Commission accepts 3 of the proposed amendments with drafting changes.

The first of these amendments clarifies the motivation of the present directive in referring to the likely increase in road transport in the Community.

The second amendment draws the attention to the importance of research and development efforts in anti-pollution technology for the competitiveness of the European automobile industry.

The third amendment underlines the role of the Commission in adapting the Communities' emissions standards to the state of the art.

The Commission has decided not to accept the other amendments, because the Commission believes it does not have objective industrial data to show that the standards proposed by Parliament can be met within the desired timescale using technologies which are available or being developed.

- B. The Commission therefore proposed to insert three new recitals in the legal part of the directive.

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After the sixth recital the following new recitals are added:

- "Whereas it is generally agreed that future transport developments in the European Community will be accompanied by an increase in pollution of the environment; whereas it must be borne in mind that hitherto all official forecasts of increases in density of transport have been overshadowed by actual developments; whereas, therefore, stringent exhaust gas standards must be laid down for all motor vehicles;
- Whereas special R & D efforts concerning reduction in pollution of the atmosphere by motor vehicles may be a significant element in strengthening the competitiveness of the European automotive industry;
- Whereas the Commission evaluates periodically recent advances in science permitting a reduction in the limit values for pollution of the air by motor vehicles and, in consultation with its Expert Group on Motor Vehicle Emissions (MVEG), proposes measures for suitable further reductions."

[REDACTED]

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