



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 28.11.1995  
COM(95) 594 final

94/0010 (SYN)

Re-examined proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

**laying down a series of measures aimed at creating a more  
favourable context for the development of  
trans-European networks in the energy sector.**

(presented by the Commission pursuant to Article 189 c (d)  
of the EC Treaty)



**OPINION OF THE COMMISSION**  
on the amendments proposed by the European Parliament  
to the Council's common position

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 8 February 1994: Transmission of the initial proposal COM (93) 685 to the European Parliament and the Council.
- 27 April 1994: Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee.
- 17 May 1994: Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.
- 18 May 1995: European Parliament's opinion on first reading.
- 29 May 1995: Transmission of the amended proposal COM (95) 226.
- 29 June 1995: Adoption by the Council of its common position.
- 26 October 1995: European Parliament's opinion on second reading.

## 2. PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL

The proposal aims to establish a more favourable financial, technical and administrative context for the implementation of projects of common interest in the field of trans-European energy networks, as provided for by the second and third indents of Article 129c(1) of the Treaty.

## 3. COMMENTS ON PARLIAMENT'S SECOND READING

Parliament adopted three amendments to the Council's common position on its second reading. It had also adopted the same amendments, in whole or in part, on first reading.

The Commission's position on these amendments is as follows:

- Amendment No 1: rejected.

This amendment specifies the forms which the financial support from the resources provided for the trans-European energy networks could take. Although it follows the wording of the original proposal, the Commission feels that it is unnecessary since it duplicates the recently adopted Council Regulation on financial aid in the field of trans-European networks (Regulation (EC) No 2236/95 of 18 September 1995).

- Amendment No 2: rejected.

This amendment advocates that the aid from the other Community funds should give particular priority to networks promoting cohesion. This would be tantamount to amending the rules and selection criteria for these other funds. This is not the objective of this proposal.

- Amendment No 3: rejected. The objectives are:

- (a) Introduction of a type I committee.

Out of concern for simplification, the Commission prefers a type IIa committee here, i.e. the same committee as provided for in the guidelines Decision.

- (b) Inclusion in the committee procedure clauses of consultation of Parliament on the measures submitted to the committee.

Parliament's legitimate concern to be kept informed of the measures submitted to the committee is met already, without amending the committee procedure clauses, by virtue of the 1988 Delors-Plumb commitment which applies to the case in point, which is covered by the cooperation procedure.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

The Commission is unable to accept any of the three amendments adopted by Parliament on second reading.

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To bring the proposal into line with Regulation (EC) No 2236/95, as adopted by the Council on 18 September 1995, the Commission makes the following amendment to its proposal:

- The fifth recital in the proposal, as amended after the first reading, is replaced by:

"Whereas, in order to speed up the realization of projects of common interest identified by Decision No .../95/EC, it is necessary to provide the Community with the possibility of supporting the financial efforts made in favour of such projects in accordance with the Council Regulation laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks."<sup>1</sup>

(N.B. This is the same wording as in the common position.)

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 2236/95 of 18 September 1995.

# DOCUMENTS

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