



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 23.7.2003  
COM(2003) 420 final

2001/0078 (COD)

**OPINION OF THE COMMISSION**

**pursuant to Article 251 (2), third subparagraph, point (c) of the EC Treaty,  
on the European Parliament's amendments  
to the Council's common position regarding the  
proposal for a**

**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity.**

AMENDING THE PROPOSAL OF THE COMMISSION pursuant to Article 250 (2) of the  
EC Treaty

## **OPINION OF THE COMMISSION**

**pursuant to Article 251 (2), third subparagraph, point (c) of the EC Treaty,  
on the European Parliament's amendments  
to the Council's common position regarding the  
proposal for a**

## **REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity.**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Article 251(2), third subparagraph, point (c) of the EC Treaty provides that the Commission is to deliver an opinion on the amendments proposed by the European Parliament at second reading. The Commission sets out its opinion below on the 4 amendments proposed by Parliament.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

The Commission adopted its proposal of the draft Regulation on 13 March 2001, as part of the internal energy market package, consisting of the Regulation and a revised electricity and gas directive.

The European Parliament adopted its first reading on 13 March 2002 and the Commission adopted its modified proposal on 7 June 2002. The Council adopted its common position on 3 February 2003 unanimously, which the Commission supported.

The 4 amendments voted by the European Parliament are part of a compromise package of amendments on the three texts of the internal market package. The package was accepted in its totality in the plenary vote by the EP on 4 June 2003. The Council on 16 June adopted by unanimity all 4 amendments voted by Parliament.

### **3. PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL**

The objective of the proposal is to promote cross-border trade in electricity, which is currently which is currently still underdeveloped when compared to other sectors of the economy, through the provision of basic rules on network access for cross-border transactions.

### **4. OPINION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE AMENDMENTS BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

The Commission can accept all 4 amendments since they provide helpful clarification to the text and leave its substance basically intact.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The Commission accepts the amendments voted by Parliament on 4 June 2003 and approved by Council on 16 June 2003.