Proposal for a Council Directive amending in respect of chromium Directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture

COM(88) 624 final

(Submitted by the Commission on 18 November 1988)

(88/C 307/10)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 130S thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas Council Directive 86/278/EEC (1) lays down limit values for certain heavy metals in cultivated soil by fixing limit values for concentrations of them in sludge used in agriculture and by fixing limit values for amounts of heavy metals which may be added annually to agricultural land, based on a 10-year average; whereas Annex I to the Directive provides for the fixing of limit values for cadmium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, mercury and chromium;

Whereas Annex I to Directive 86/278/EEC states that the limit values for chromium were not fixed because of insufficient scientific data and that it was agreed that the Council would fix these values later on the basis of a proposal from the Commission;

Whereas recent practical and experimental developments in the use of sewage sludge in agriculture have provided further scientific information on the effect of chromium on soils and crops; whereas this new information now enables limit values for chromium to be fixed with certainty, and at a high level of protection,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

Annex I to Directive 86/278/EEC is hereby amended as follows:

1. In Annex I A:
   - the dash in the last line of the second column of the table is replaced by '100 to 200',
   - footnote (3) to the table is deleted.
2. In Annex I B:
   - the dash in the last line of the second column of the table is replaced by '1 000 to 1 750',
   - footnote (1) to the table is deleted.
3. In Annex I C:
   - the dash in the last line of the second column of the table is replaced by '4,5',
   - footnote (2) to the table is deleted.

Article 2

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive not later than 1 January 1990. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the texts of the provisions of national law which they adopt in the field governed by this Directive.

Article 3

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

(1) OJ No L 181, 4. 7. 1986, p. 6.