COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 12.06.1996
COM(96) 265 final

94/0286 (COD)

OPINION OF THE COMMISSION

pursuant to Article 189 b (2) (d) of the EC Treaty,
on the amendments of the European Parliament
to the common position of the Council
with a view to adoption of
a European Parliament and 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

AMENDING THE PROPOSAL OF THE COMMISSION

pursuant to Article 189 a (2) of the EC Treaty

Parliament on 9 May 1996 adopted three amendments to the common position adopted by the Council on 22 December 1995 on a Directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on measures to be taken against air pollution from emissions from motor vehicles.

In accordance with Article 189b(2)(d) of the EC Treaty, the Commission hereby delivers a favourable opinion on these amendments, on the following grounds:

- Amendments 1 and 3 are purely procedural, so there can be no objection to them;
- Amendment 2 reduces the duration of validity of the certificates issued for the low-powered category of vehicles, according to a specific procedure abolished by Directive 93/59/EEC. Since the expiry dates featuring in Parliament's amendment differ by only three months from those initially proposed by the Commission, and given the reduced number of vehicles involved, the Commission finds this amendment acceptable.

For these reasons, the Commission has decided, in line with Article 189a of the EC Treaty, to alter its proposal so as to incorporate the amendments adopted by Parliament.

Given the closeness of the dates of entry into force foreseen in the common position, it considers it a matter of urgency that the Council modifies its common position accordingly and adopts the text in question.

Altered proposal for a Parliament and 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

(submitted by the Commission pursuant to Article 189a(2) of the EC Treaty)

Current proposal	Altered proposal
Twelfth recital	
Whereas the Council should adopt, by 31 December 1997, the requirements valid for the stage beginning in 2000, on the basis of a proposal which the Commission must submit by 30 June 1996 and which is to be aimed at substantially reducing emissions from light commercial vehicles;	Whereas the European Parliament and the Council should adopt, by 31 December 1997, the requirements valid for the stage beginning in 2000, on the basis of a proposal which the Commission must submit by 30 June 1996 and which is to be aimed at substantially reducing emissions from light commercial vehicles;
Article 2(3), second subparagraph	
For vehicles with a power-to-weight ratio of no more than 30 kW/t and a maximum speed not exceeding 130 km/h, the dates referred to in the first subparagraph shall be replaced by 1 January 1998 and 1 January 1999 respectively.	Deleted
Article 4	
The Council, acting under the conditions laid down in the Treaty, shall decide by 31 December 1997 on proposals to be submitted by the Commission by 30 June 1996, for a further stage in the reduction, by the adoption of Community measures, of air pollution caused by emissions from motor vehicles covered by this Directive. The measures shall apply from the year 2000. In these proposals, the Commission will follow the approach outlined in Article 4 of Directive 94/12/EC.	The European Parliament and the Council, acting under the conditions laid down in the Treaty, shall decide by 31 December 1997 on proposals to be submitted by the Commission by 30 June 1996, for a further stage in the reduction, by the adoption of Community measures, of air pollution caused by emissions from motor vehicles covered by this Directive. The measures shall apply from the year 2000. In these proposals, the Commission will follow the approach outlined in Article 4 of Directive 94/12/EC.

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