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## **\*\*\*III REPORT**

on the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee for a European and Council decision adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of energy efficiency – SAVE (C5-0034/1999 – 1997/0371(COD))

European Parliament delegation to the Conciliation Committee

Rapporteur: Nuala Ahern

### ***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*I Cooperation procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*II Cooperation procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position*  
*majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position*
- \*\*\* Assent procedure  
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- \*\*\*I Codecision procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*\*II Codecision procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position*  
*majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position*
- \*\*\*III Codecision procedure (third reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text*

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

### ***Abbreviations for committees***

- I. AFET Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy
- II. BUDG Committee on Budgets
- III. CONT Committee on Budgetary Control
- IV. LIBE Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs
- V. ECON Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
- VI. JURI Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market
- VII. INDU Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy
- VIII. EMPL Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
- IX. ENVI Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy
- X. AGRI Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
- XI. PECH Committee on Fisheries
- XII. REGI Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism
- XIII. CULT Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport
- XIV. DEVE Committee on Development and Cooperation
- XV. AFCO Committee on Constitutional Affairs
- XVI. FEMM Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities
- XVII. PETI Committee on Petitions

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
PROCEDURAL PAGE .....	4
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION.....	5
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT .....	6

## PROCEDURAL PAGE

At the sitting of 11 March 1999 Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of energy efficiency – SAVE ((COM(1997) 550 - 1997/0371 (COD))).

At the sitting of 23 July 1999 the President of Parliament announced that the common position had been received and referred to the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (7123/1/1999 - C5-0033/1999).

At the sitting of 6 October 1999 Parliament adopted amendments to the common position.

By letter of 28 October 1999 the Council stated that it was unable to approve all Parliament's amendments.

The President of the Council, in agreement with the President of Parliament, convened a meeting of the Conciliation Committee on 11 November 1999.

At this meeting, the Conciliation Committee considered the common position on the basis of the amendments proposed by Parliament.

At the same meeting it reached agreement on a joint text.

On 23 December 1999 the co-chairmen of the Conciliation Committee established that the joint text had been approved, pursuant to paragraph III.8 of the Joint declaration on practical arrangements for the new codecision procedure,<sup>1</sup> and forwarded it to Parliament and the Council in all the official languages.

On 20 January 2000 Parliament's delegation to the Conciliation Committee adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: James L.C. Provan, Vice-President and chairman of the delegation; Ingo Friedrich and Renzo Imbeni, Vice-Presidents; Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza, chairman of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy; Nuala Ahern, rapporteur; Eduard Beysen (for Elly Plooij-van Gorsel), Giles Bryan Chichester (for Paul Rübig), Françoise D. Grossetête, Werner Langen, Rolf Linkohr, Eryl Margaret McNally, Mechtild Rothe, Esko Olavi Seppänen and W.G. van Velzen.

The report was tabled on 25 January 2000.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 148, 28.5.1999, p. 1.

## DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

### **European Parliament legislative resolution on the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee for a European Parliament and Council decision adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of energy efficiency – SAVE (C5-0034/1999 – 1997/0371(COD))**

#### **(Codecision procedure: third reading)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee (C5-0034/1999),
  - having regard to its position at first reading<sup>1</sup> on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(1997) 550<sup>2</sup>),
  - having regard to the Commission's amended proposal (COM(1999) 211 – C4-0246/1999<sup>3</sup>),
  - having regard to its position at second reading on the Council common position<sup>4</sup>,
  - having regard to the Commission's opinion on Parliament's amendments to the common position (COM(1999) 558 - C5-0246/1999)<sup>5</sup>,
  - having regard to Article 251(5) of the EC Treaty,
  - having regard to Rule 83 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of its delegation to the Conciliation Committee (A5-0010/2000),
1. Approves the joint text;
  2. Instructs its President to sign the act with the President of the Council pursuant to Article 254(1) of the EC Treaty;
  3. Instructs its Secretary-General duly to sign the act and, in agreement with the Secretary-General of the Council, to have it published in the Official Journal of the European Communities;
  4. Instructs its President to forward this legislative resolution to the Council and Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 175, 21.6.1999, p. 190.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C not yet published.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C not yet published.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C not yet published.

<sup>5</sup> OJ C not yet published.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

### *Introduction*

The purpose of the European Parliament and Council decision adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of energy efficiency – SAVE: 1998 – 2002 is to stimulate energy-saving measures throughout industry, encourage energy-saving investment by public and private consumers and industry and create conditions for improving the energy intensity of final consumption.

To achieve such aims the programme provides for a series of studies and measures to implement and supplement Community measures to improve energy efficiency, targeted sectoral pilot schemes to speed up investment in energy and improve energy-saving habits, measures proposed by the Commission or other bodies to encourage the dissemination of information, a review of progress on energy efficiency in the Community and each of the Member States and, finally, specific actions to encourage energy management at regional and urban level.

The Commission provided EUR 68.4 million for the period concerned in the financial statement with its proposal of 18 November 1997. The proposal forms part of the framework programme for measures in the energy sector. This programme is an extension of the SAVE Programme which the Council adopted in December 1996 (and which expires at the end of 2000); it brings the programme's period of application into line with those of the other programmes for the energy sector.

### *The decision at first and second reading*

The subject was first discussed in the Bloch von Blottnitz (Verts, D) report, adopted at first reading on 11 March 1999 with 19 amendments. The report underlined the need to adopt legislative measures at Community and Member State level to bring about the effort required to achieve significant reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions throughout the Community. It considers that the SAVE programme should aim to improve the energy intensity of final consumption by 1.5 % a year, over and above the improvement obtained by other means. Studies and actions should concentrate on the energy certification of buildings, thermal insulation of new buildings, regular inspection of boilers or research to reduce individual private and business transport in conurbations.

Following entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam, Parliament confirmed, as first reading under the codecision procedure, its previous opinion. The Commission accepted six of the above amendments.

The Council then adopted its common position on 28 June 1999, incorporating only three of Parliament's amendments. It is worth noting that the Council inserted in the text a total financial allocation of EUR 64 million. The Commission took the view that the common position largely complied with and complemented its amended proposal and situated it clearly within the context of the multiannual framework programme for the energy sector.

At second reading Parliament adopted the Ahern report (Verts, IRL), containing eight amendments, on 6 October 1999. It no longer supported the above objective of improving the

energy intensity of final consumption by 1.5 % a year. On the budget side, Parliament increased the allocation to EUR 68.4 million, the Commission's original figure. The report also stipulated that the programme could contain legislative and non-legislative measures, referring to the new commitment decision and going into greater detail on the categories of actions and measures which the programme should finance.

The Commission accepted five of the eight amendments Parliament proposed, either in full or in part, including the budgetary allocation.

#### *The decision in conciliation*

In view of the close link with other programmes, such as Altener, expiring at the end of 1999, and the fact that the Council could only accept one of the amendments adopted, the Finnish Presidency decided, in agreement with the President of Parliament, to convene a conciliation committee at short notice. Its constituent meeting thus took place on 20 October 1999.

At the trialogue of 3 November agreement was reached on the studies and actions to devise, implement, complement and assess the Community measures.

At the Conciliation Committee meeting of 11 November compromise wordings were agreed for five other amendments, including questions of commitment, reference to legislative and non-legislative measures, the inclusion of independent local energy centres in those responsible for implementing pilot schemes to improve energy consumption habits, and finally, the inclusion of energy audit systems in the review of progress on energy efficiency.

The one remaining issue was the financial allocation, where a difference of EUR 4.4 million still separated Parliament from the Council. This was discussed at a meeting on 1 December 1999 between the chairman of the Parliament delegation, Mr Provan, and the appropriate Finnish minister, Mr Tuomioja. At that meeting the Council agreed to increase the financial amount to EUR 66 million, an increase of EUR 2 million on the Council's starting figure.

A meeting of the Parliament delegation on 9 December 1999 accepted this Council offer, and the Conciliation Committee, meeting the same day to discuss the Culture 2000 programme, approved the final wording of the programme as an 'A' item (without debate).

#### *Conclusions*

We may regard the end result of conciliation as very satisfactory for Parliament, as the joint text has incorporated all its amendments, either in full or in a reworked form. The financial amount finally allocated to the programme is also very reasonable, in view of the figures under discussion and the calculations the Commission submitted. We therefore propose that the House adopt it at third reading.