



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2011/0197(COD)

25.4.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council
on recreational craft and personal watercraft
(COM(2011)0456 – C7-0212/2011 – 2011/0197(COD))

Rapporteur: Salvatore Tatarella

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Background

The purpose of the Commission proposal for a directive on recreational craft and personal watercraft is to revise a directive adopted in 1994 – Directive 94/25/EC – which laid down basic safety standards for watercraft placed on the market. Directive 94/25/EC has already been amended by Directive 2003/44/EC, which introduced a set of limit values for exhaust emissions and noise levels for watercraft. This new Commission proposal imposes stricter emission limits to reflect the technological progress of recreational marine engines; this will have the effect of harmonising limits worldwide and, in particular, bringing them into line with the limits imposed in the US. The recreational craft sector has limited impact on the environment, given the small number of watercraft compared to motor vehicles in general and the fact that they are only used for a few months of the year.

The directive lays down maximum exhaust emission levels for pollutants such as particulates, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons. It does not address CO₂.

Before finalising the draft directive, the Commission conducted wide-ranging consultations with interested parties: the nautical industries, engine manufacturers, nautical associations and the Member States. There was general consensus among all stakeholders on the proposal. The draft directive lays down new rules for a sector which employs 270 000 people and includes 37 000 businesses. The nautical sector mainly consists of SMEs (which account for 95% of the businesses concerned). The Commission therefore was careful to take particular account of SMEs in the recreational marine craft and engine sector, bearing in mind that some small-volume engine manufacturers only supply the European market. Since 2007 the sector has been seriously affected by the economic crisis, with total sales of recreational craft falling by half.

The rapporteur's position

The rapporteur welcomes the Commission proposal, and particularly supports its objective of harmonising the existing legislation. It is very important to ensure that the new directive, while tightening up some provisions to comply with environmental criteria, helps to boost the sector's competitiveness by bringing it into line with the most advanced sectors of the market at world level. This would enable the industry to beat off strong competition from the US and allow the European Union to play a leading role in the sector.

One key element of the directive is the granting of a transitional period to allow manufacturers to adapt to the new emission requirements. The rapporteur welcomes the extension of the transitional period to three years for small and medium sized engine manufacturers placing on the EU market outboard engines below 15 kW. In the case of noise pollution, however, no change to the current limit values is proposed, since noise emissions relate not only to engine noise, but also to external environmental conditions: these two factors make it very difficult to amend the existing rules.

Your rapporteur strongly believes that noise emissions should be controlled at local level by

measures to tighten up speed restrictions. Noise levels are closely correlated to the behaviour of watercraft users and compliance with the rules applying to the recreational use of such craft. Your rapporteur calls on the Commission to examine, within the next five years, the feasibility of a further stage to reduce emissions from marine engines while taking account of technological developments and including the problem of fuel spillage in the scope of the legislation. Finally, your rapporteur considers that the proposal should be adopted as a matter of the greatest urgency, to ensure that the directive is transposed and implemented by the Member States as soon as possible.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a directive Recital 22

Text proposed by the Commission

(22) Depending on the fuel and power category, the test cycles for engines in marine applications described in the relevant ISO standard should be used.

Amendment

(22) Depending on the fuel and power category, the test cycles for engines in marine applications described in the relevant ISO standard should be used. ***A special test cycle for marine hybrid power installations should be developed for hybrid power installations that have different technical characteristics from standard internal combustion engines.***

Amendment 2

Proposal for a directive Recital 26 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(26a) Member States should check whether they are taking effective regionally specific national measures, such as the introduction or adjustment of speed limits, in order to reduce noise

emissions as much as possible.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a directive

Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) It is crucial to make clear to manufacturers and users that by affixing the CE marking to the product, the manufacturer declares that the product is in conformity with all applicable requirements and takes full responsibility thereof.

Amendment

(28) By affixing the CE marking to the product, manufacturers should take full responsibility for the product being in conformity with the applicable requirements. Manufacturers and users should be given more information about this in order to achieve the objectives of CE marking.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a directive

Article 53 – paragraphs 2 a and 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Not later than five years after the date referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 57(1), and taking into account any major market initiatives, the Commission shall submit a report on:

- the technical feasibility of further reducing the emissions of recreational marine engines, taking into account the cost-efficiency of technologies and the need to agree globally harmonised values for the sector; and

- the need to reduce fuel spillage.

The report shall be accompanied, if appropriate, by a legislative proposal to that effect.

PROCEDURE

Title	Recreational craft and personal watercraft
References	COM(2011)0456 – C7-0212/2011 – 2011/0197(COD)
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	IMCO 13.9.2011
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	ENVI 13.9.2011
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Salvatore Tatarella 28.9.2011
Discussed in committee	20.3.2012
Date adopted	25.4.2012
Result of final vote	+: 56 –: 0 0: 6
Members present for the final vote	Elena Oana Antonescu, Kriton Arsenis, Sophie Auconie, Pilar Ayuso, Paolo Bartolozzi, Sandrine Bélier, Lajos Bokros, Martin Callanan, Nessa Childers, Yves Cochet, Chris Davies, Esther de Lange, Anne Delvaux, Bas Eickhout, Edite Estrela, Jill Evans, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Matthias Grootte, Françoise Grossetête, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Dan Jørgensen, Karin Kadenbach, Christa Klauß, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Holger Kraemer, Corinne Lepage, Peter Liese, Kartika Tamara Liotard, Zofija Mazej Kukovič, Linda McAvan, Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Gilles Pargneaux, Antonia Parvanova, Andres Perello Rodriguez, Mario Pirillo, Pavel Poc, Frédérique Ries, Oreste Rossi, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Carl Schlyter, Horst Schnellhardt, Richard Seiber, Bogusław Sonik, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Salvatore Tatarella, Anja Weisgerber, Åsa Westlund, Glenis Willmott
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Vicky Ford, Jacqueline Foster, Julie Girling, Judith A. Merkies, Miroslav Mikolášik, Vittorio Prodi, Michèle Rivasi, Renate Sommer, Struan Stevenson, Anna Záborská, Andrea Zannoni