

Fuel quality - amendment of Directive 98/70/EC

Transmitted by the Expert from the European Commission

Commission proposal

The Commission forwarded its proposal to amend Directive 98/70/EC on 11 May 2001. The proposal introduces the requirement to make available petrol and diesel with a maximum content of 10 ppm sulphur from 1 January 2005 and to make this limit compulsory by 1 January 2011.

A review clause was inserted stating that the Commission not later than 31 December 2006 should review the necessity of any change to the end date for the full introduction of diesel fuel with a maximum content of 10 ppm and implications of new Community legislation concerning air quality standards, the outcome of the review on the CO2 commitment, the review on Euro V standards for HDV's etc.

The proposal from the Commission also included a clarification of specifications on fuels for non-road mobile machinery, without adding any new requirements.

1st reading in the Parliament

The European Parliament adopted its report, containing 36 amendments, on 29 November 2001. The most important proposed changes, compared to the Commission proposal, were:

- To move the end date for 10 ppm petrol and diesel forward to 1 January 2008;
- To move the end date for the review to 31 December 2005 and to limit it to cover only parameters other than sulphur;
- The possibility for the Commission to give derogation on the 2005 requirements is deleted;
- To require the same fuel specifications for use in non-road mobile machinery as for the use in on-road vehicles.

Common position.

The Council decided on a political agreement on a Common Position at its meeting 12 December. The most important changes compared with the Commission proposal (and the 1st reading of the EP) were the following:

- To move the end date for 10 ppm diesel forward to 1 January 2009;
 - To move the end date for the review to 31 December 2005;
 - To require from the Commission to establish fuel quality standards for non-road mobile machinery when proposing stage III emission standards for NRMM-CI engines.
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