



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 10.1.2008

COM(2008) 5 final

2005/0211 (COD)

OPINION OF THE COMMISSION

pursuant to Article 251 (2), third subparagraph, point (c) of the EC Treaty, on the European Parliament's amendments to the Council's common position regarding the proposal for a

DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

establishing a Framework for Community Action in the field of Marine Environmental Policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)

AMENDING THE PROPOSAL OF THE COMMISSION pursuant to Article 250 (2) of the EC Treaty

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(Text with EEA relevance)

1. BACKGROUND

Procedure

- On 24 October 2005 the Commission submitted a proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ establishing a Framework for Community Action in the field of Marine Environmental Policy (Marine Strategy Directive) for adoption by co-decision procedure as laid down in Article 251 of the EC Treaty.
- The European Economic and Social Committee delivered its Opinion on 20 April 2006.
- The Committee of the Regions delivered its Opinion on 26 April 2006.
- The European Parliament adopted its position on first reading on 14 November 2006.
- The Council adopted its Common Position on 23 July 2007.
- The European Parliament adopted its position on second reading on 11 December 2007.

Objective of the Commission proposal

The main objective of the proposal is to establish a framework for the protection and preservation of the marine environment, the prevention of its deterioration and, where practicable, the restoration of that environment in areas where it has been adversely affected. This would be done through development and implementation, by Member States, of marine strategies with the aim of achieving or maintaining good environmental status.

¹ COM(2005)505 final (2005/0211 (COD))

2. COMMISSION COMMENTS

2.1 General

At its plenary session of 11 December 2007, the European Parliament adopted 54 amendments, out of the 117 amendments that were tabled.

The 54 amendments adopted by the Parliament were all part of a compromise package agreed with the Council. The Commission can accept all of the amendments in full.

2.2 Amended proposal

Pursuant to Article 250(2) of the EC Treaty, the Commission amends its proposal as set out above.