



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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PRESSE 222

Council approves environmental impact assessment directive

The Council today adopted¹ a directive amending directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment ([PE-CONS 15/14, 7927/14 ADD 1](#)).

Today's final adoption of the legislation by the Council follows an agreement reached at first reading with the European Parliament. The European Parliament voted at its plenary session of 12 March 2014.

The environmental impact assessment (EIA) entails the systematic collection and analysis of information about the environmental effects of a project by the developer in order to enable the competent authority to decide if and how the project should be carried out.

The directive is aimed at ensuring a high level of protection of the environment and human health through the establishment of common minimum requirements for the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The amendments adapt the current directive to the policy, legal and technical contexts, which have evolved considerably.

¹ The decision was taken without discussion at a meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council.

P R E S S

In particular, the quality of the environmental impact assessments procedure is strengthened and aligned with the principles of smart regulation. In addition, the new directive enhances consistency and synergies with other EU legislation and policies, as well as strategies and policies developed by member states in areas of national competence. New elements incorporated into the environmental impact assessment procedure include, in particular, a mandatory assessment of reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, broader scope, as the EIA will cover new issues, and more detailed provisions on screening.

The directive will enter into force on the twentieth day following its publication in the Official Journal of the EU. The member states will have three years to incorporate it into national legislation.
