



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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PRESSE 537

Chemicals directive

The Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) today approved a directive amending directives 92/58/EEC, 92/85/EEC, 94/33/EC, 98/24/EC and 2004/37/EC in order to align them with regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures.

The directive is intended to protect workers' health and safety from risks due to exposure to chemicals at the workplace.

In March 2013, the Commission submitted a proposal for a directive to amend the above five directives ([7036/13](#)).

These directives contain reference to EU chemical classification and labelling legislation which became outdated following the adoption of the regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (the "CLP regulation").

The aim of the CLP directive is to implement within the EU the United Nations globally harmonised system of classification and labelling, while adapting certain aspects of the EU legal framework on occupational health and safety.

The alignment of the five directives should be purely technical and terminological; no impact assessment has been undertaken which would justify modifications of the scope and substance.

P R E S S

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The main changes with respect to the Commission proposal are as follows:

- In article 1 concerning the signage directive, the Commission proposal has been amended to help give the employer a clear understanding of what signs should be used under what circumstances at the workplace. Clear signage at the workplace helps avoid causing confusion to workers and is of tremendous importance for occupational health and safety.
- In articles 2 and 3, concerning directives 92/85/EEC on pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breast-feeding and 94/33/EC concerning young people, the Council and the Parliament agreed on adding, in line with the original directives, the corresponding hazard statements to the list of categories suggested by the Commission in its proposal. The Council and the Parliament also agreed on adding several categories of substances and mixtures not included in the Commission proposal.

The Council and the Parliament agreed on the transposition deadline of 1 June 2015. This is in line with the CLP regulation, which stipulates that all mixtures placed on the market following that date must be classified, labelled and packaged in accordance with the CLP regulation ¹.

¹ By 1 June 2015, all substances have to be classified, labelled and packaged in accordance with the CLP regulation, whereas mixtures placed on the market before that date do not have to be reclassified, relabelled and repackaged until 1 June 2017.