

Position Paper

UEAPME's position for the second reading of the Proposal for a Directive on Industrial Emissions

General Remarks

As highlighted during the first reading, UEAPME, the European Craft and SME association and European employers' organisation, once again emphasises that the EU legislation on industrial emissions applies also to numerous small and medium-sized enterprises. For these, compliance with the relevant legal provisions is in general much more challenging than for larger companies.

UEAPME welcomes several improvements for SMEs made during the first reading but regrets that neither the Council nor the European Parliament, despite several commitments such as the Small Business Act for Europe, took enough efforts to avoid and reduce unnecessary administrative burden. We are pleased to list below a few detailed suggestions that would better reflect the specific needs of SMEs.

Moreover we are looking forward to further simplifications, such as the simplification on monitoring requirements in the future as announced by recital 39 of the Common Position. Likewise, we call on the Commission to actively urge the Member States to identify and implement options for the reduction of unnecessary bureaucracy in course of the transposition of the new Directive.

UEAPME's suggestions for a second reading agreement - Extension of the scope of Chapter II

Any extension of the scope must be very carefully considered in terms of the environmental impact of a specific activity and the expected administrative and compliance costs imposed by the industrial emissions legislation. Special attention should be drawn to activities which may also typically be carried out by smaller enterprises.

Annex I of the Common Position observes the aforementioned principles and consequently it should remain unchanged.

Monitoring and reporting requirements, soil protection measures

The review of the IPPC directive will lead to a further total increase of information obligations for operators entailed by provisions of EU law. Such requirements foreseen by the Common Position and the Parliament's first reading position are inter alia additional reporting duties such as the soil status report. In particular the latter report may impose unduly high costs on SMEs. UEAPME stresses the need to provide for further exemptions.

Therefore UEAPME

- urges to provide for the recurring reporting by operators only every second year and to clarify better which data have to be reported (Article 15 paragraph 1 letter d) of the Common Position). Furthermore the competent authorities should have regarded to the use of Environmental Management Systems apart from EMAS such as ISO 14000 when the inspection frequency is being determined.

- suggests to insert the words “significant amounts” (in terms of the release of hazardous substances) from the Parliament’s first reading position as condition for the requirement to produce a status report in Article 22 of the Common Position.
- underlines the necessity to confirm the provisions adopted by the Council that would give the authorities more flexibility in the handling of the monitoring requirements for smaller waste incineration plants (Annex VI part 6 of the Common Position).

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