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## CERAMICS INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Physical Agents (Noise) - Outcome of the EP's Employment and Social Affairs Committee meeting 18-19 February 2002

#### A paper by Roger Monaghan, Secretary CERIAC

#### Issues

1. Updating members on the progress with this directive

#### Headlines

2. The headlines issues are:
  - The 87dB(A) limit value **will** take account of hearing protection;
  - The music/entertainment industry will not be exempted;
  - The upper action value remains 85 dBA;
  - Health surveillance will be available on request at the lower action value of 80 dBA
  - Weekly measurement is allowed in duly justified circumstances

#### The Votes

For	Against	Abstention
<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>

The Votes by amendment number are shown in the table below:

Amendment	Vote	Amendment	Vote	Amendment	Vote
1	Withdrawn	12	Adopt	23	Adopt
2	Withdrawn	13	Adopt	24	Adopt
3	Withdrawn	14	Lost	25	Adopt
4	Withdrawn	15	Adopt	26	Adopt
5	Adopt	16	Withdrawn	27	Adopt
6	Withdrawn	17	Adopt	28	Adopt
7	Adopt	18	Adopt	29	Adopt
8	Withdrawn	19	Adopt	30	Adopt
9	Adopt	20	Adopt	31	Adopt
10	Adopt	21	Withdrawn		
11	Adopt	22	Adopt		

## **Background**

3. After considerable lobbying by the UK Government and UK industry representatives, Helle Thorning-Schmidt, the Rapporteur of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, withdrew the most burdensome amendments in her report. The Committee voted to adopt the second reading by 27:16.

## **Comment**

4. The UK Government strongly supports the common position text. However, following the withdrawal of the most contentious and burdensome amendments, the remaining amendments could be considered a workable compromise.

## **Next Steps**

5. The amendments will now go the next plenary session of the Parliament.

6. Philip Bushill-Matthews MEP, Conservative Spokesman on Employment has announced the intention to retable amendment 14, to exclude music and the entertainment sector from the scope of this Directive. The amendment was defeated by 22 votes to 20, but he has stated he is hopeful of success in the plenary session.

7. The UK Government remains strongly opposed to this amendment because it is important that workers in all sectors of industry receive the same level of protection from health and safety legislation. If, as proposed, a separate Directive for the music and entertainment sector were to be negotiated it would lead to a situation where one sector of industry is afforded lower levels of protection than all others. It is not UK Government policy to accept legislation which would dilute existing health and safety standards.

8. HSE will issue further factual briefing to UK MEPs on the remaining amendments in due course.

## **Contact:**

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