

Folketinget – Europaudvalget
Christiansborg, den 24. februar 2005

Til

udvalgets medlemmer og stedfortrædere.

Bundesrats holdning til forordning om drivhusgasser (KOM (2003) 0492)

Til udvalgets orientering vedlægges henvendelse af 24. februar 2005 fra det tyske Europaudvalg vedrørende Bundestags behandling af forslag til forordning om visse fluorholdige drivhusgasser.

Henvendelsen fra det tyske Europaudvalg er fremsendt som svar på brev af 17. december 2004, som den tidligere formand for Folketingets Europaudvalg Claus Larsen-Jensen har sendt til alle COSAC-medlemmerne vedrørende den danske position. Dette brev er ligeledes vedlagt.

Med venlig hilsen
Lone Boelt Møller,
udvalgssekretær.



Matthias Wissmann
Member of the German Bundestag
Former Federal Minister
Chairman

of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union

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To the
Chairperson of the Committee
on the Affairs of the European Union
Folketinget
Christiansborg
1240 Copenhagen
Dänemark

24 February 2005

Dear Colleague,

In response to the letter of the former Chairman of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union, Mr. Larsen-Jensen, of 17th December 2004 concerning the European Commission's proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on limiting emission to the atmosphere of certain fluorinated greenhouse gases, I would like to give you following position.

We welcome the efforts of the Folketinget in order to achieve an even greater reduction of CO₂ emission at EU level. In Germany, there is also support for a further ban of harmful greenhouse gases in particular in view of the Kyoto Protocol and the Lisbon Strategy. Industry in Germany, as in other EU countries such as Denmark, has started developing new technologies enabling the use of harmless substitutes, and should be encouraged to pursue these efforts further.

Reducing CO₂ emissions is of the greatest importance in protecting the environment and requires structural changes, in some member states radical transformation of industrial processes. This explains why the negotiations in the Council and the deliberations in the European Parliament have been so difficult.

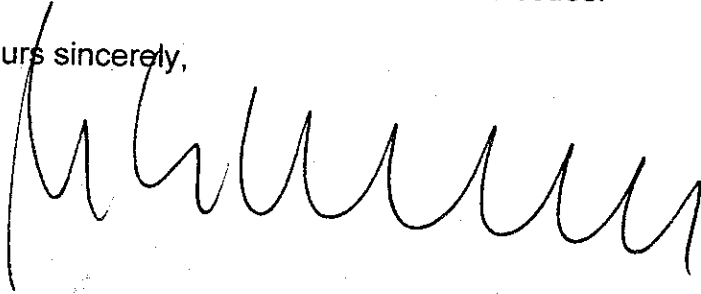
In Germany, the discussion has focussed in particular on the withdrawal from use of fluorine-containing greenhouse gases in the field of air-conditioning systems for motor vehicles as stipulated in the corresponding Draft Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council. This Directive, which aims at phasing out particular gases such as HFC-134a, is undoubtedly a step towards sustainable development.

It seems to me of utmost importance to find a basis for a political agreement at EU-level on this sensitive issue and to start harmonising environmental standards in

Europe. The above Commission's proposal for a Regulation could be a basis for this, given the possibility of refining it in the years to come.

In response to your request, I have transmitted your letter to the rapporteurs of the EU Affairs Committee on environment issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected, flowing loops and curves, typical of a cursive or semi-cursive style. The signature is positioned below the text "Yours sincerely," and above the rest of the page.

Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Parliament of Denmark

To xxx

17 December 2004

Ref.No. EUU 225/MATA

Dear colleague,

At the COSAC-meeting in the Hague 23 November 2004 the Danish delegation brought up the problem with the *proposal on the European Parliament and Council Regulation on limiting emissions to the atmosphere of certain greenhouse gases containing fluorine*. In the conclusions from the meeting COSAC urges EU governments to live up to the Lisbon Strategy:

.. by ensuring more flexibility and well-functioning labour markets while respecting social cohesion, more investment in education and research, more and better jobs, and further reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases, with full respect for the ability of Member States to maintain or enact stricter environmental legislation in order to live up to the principle of sustainable development, and highlights the need for active involvement by national parliaments;

As mentioned in the meeting I now contact you with a plea to help us work for a reduction in CO₂ gases at EU level. It is the Danish view both in Government and in Parliament that the proposal is a step forward in the right direction for EU to fulfil the obligations in the Kyoto Protocol to reduce CO₂ emissions when you look at the EU as a whole. But the proposal does have some unfortunate consequences and is in conflict with the goals embedded in the Lisbon-Strategy, since the proposal ignores already existing technology able to reduce CO₂ emission by making the use of the harmful greenhouse gases superfluous.

The Lisbon Strategy calls for respect for the environment in the core of growth and jobs. In pursuance of the Lisbon Strategy Denmark has already by law prohibited the use of greenhouse gases containing fluorine. Denmark invested in technology which combines innovative new technology with investments and the creation of new jobs in line with the environmental policy goals in the Lisbon Strategy.

This means that the consequence of the decision made by the Council of Ministers for the Environment on greenhouse gases is that this entire effort will be wasted and the regulation will come to represent a political direction that forbids a country to use the technology developed to benefit employment and the environment. The result will be that EU is harmonising environmental standards downwards in a country solely out of deference to the single market, without taking account of the objectives regarding sustainability, and in conflict with the Lisbon processes.

So I urge you to help us work to tighten up the Commissions proposal - both during the second reading in the European Parliament and in the Council.

Yours sincerely

Claus Larsen-Jensen