DIRECTIVE 1999/33/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 10 May 1999

amending Council Directive 67/548/EEC as regards the labelling of certain dangerous substances in Austria and Sweden

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 95 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission [1],

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee [2],

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty [3],

(1) Whereas Article 30 of Council Directive 67/548/EEC of 27 June 1967 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances [4], provides that Member States may not prohibit, restrict or impede the placing on the market of substances which comply with that Directive;

(2) Whereas Article 23(2)(c) of Directive 67/548/EEC thereof requires every package of a substance to show danger symbols, as laid down in Annex II; whereas Article 23(2)(e) of the said Directive requires every package of a substance to show specific S-phrases (safety phrases) relating to the safe use of the substance, and whereas the wording of those S-phrases is laid down in Annex IV to that Directive;

(3) Whereas Article 69 of the 1994 Act of Accession and Annex VIII thereto provide that Article 30 in conjunction with Article 23(2) of Directive 67/548/EEC is not to apply to Austria before 1 January 1999, in that Austria may require the use of labels with additional symbols not included in Annex II and labels with additional S-phrases not listed in Annex IV to the said Directive regarding counter-measures in case of accident, and that those provisions are to be reviewed in accordance with EC procedures before 31 December 1998;

(4) Whereas Article 23(2)(d) of Directive 67/548/EEC requires every package of a substance to show specific R-phrases (risk phrases) indicating the special risks arising from the dangers involved in using the substance, and whereas the wording of those R-phrases is laid down in Annex III to the said Directive;

(5) Whereas Article 112 of the 1994 Treaty of Accession and Annex XII thereto provide that Article 30 in conjunction with Article 23(2)(d) of Directive 67/548/EEC is not to apply to Sweden before 1 January 1999, in that Sweden may require the use of the additional R-phrases 'R-322' and 'R-340' not listed in Annex III to the said Directive, and that those provisions are to be reviewed in accordance with Community procedures before 31 December 1998;

(6) Whereas Directive 1999/45/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 1999 concerning the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations [5] provides for certain specific conditions for the application of the Directive as regards, *inter alia*, additional symbols, R-phrases and S-phrases for Austria and Sweden in order to take account of the level of their standards for the protection of health and the protection of the environment; whereas those specific conditions are limited to the two-year period running from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2000; whereas during that period coherence of the marketing conditions of dangerous substances and preparations should be sought;

(7) Whereas scientific and technical progress is foreseeable within the framework of international negotiations on the harmonisation of the classification of dangerous substances with regard to 'R-322', and whereas, in the light of the ongoing international negotiations on the labelling of dangerous substances and taking account of the labelling survey launched by the Commission, Member State experts have agreed to consider the in-depth revision of existing Community legislation with regard to 'R-340' an important priority;

(8) Whereas Community legislation will have to be reviewed in the light of the outcome of the negotiations on the international harmonisation of the classification and labelling of dangerous substances, and whereas it can be expected that the outcome will lead to an approximation of standards in this respect throughout the Community;

[1] OJ C 374, 3.12.1998, p. 15.
[2] OJ C 40, 15.2.1999, p. 43.
[3] Opinion of the European Parliament of 16 December 1998 (OJ C 98, 9.4.1999, p. 151), Council Common Position of 8 February 1999 (OJ C 58, 1.3.1999, p. 26) and Decision of the European Parliament of 10 March 1999 (OJ C 175, 21.6.1999). Council Decision of 29 April 1999.
[4] OJ 196, 16.8.1967, p. 1. Directive as last amended by Commission Directive 98/98/EC (OJ L 355, 30.12.1998, p. 1).
[5] OJ L 200, 30.7.1999, p. 1.