

On 17th June the Ministers responsible for the Environment in the 27 EU Member States adopted the Council's position – called “general approach” – on the Green Claims Directive. The Directive aims to lay down minimum requirements for the substantiation, communication and verification of explicit environmental claims.

In a clear acknowledgement of stakeholders' concerns, including EASA's, the Council introduces a simplified procedure replacing the ex-ante verification of environmental claims in certain cases. This follows a similar development in the position of the Parliament, adopted in April. However, where the Parliament listed different types of claims to each of which the simplified procedure would apply, the Council chose to make a list of three cumulative criteria that would have to be fulfilled: no full life-cycle analysis necessary, claim related to a single environmental characteristic, and not leading to impacts' trade-offs. The Council's simplified procedure mostly consists in a self-declaration by means of a “Specific Technical Documentation”, the format of which would have to be defined by an implementing act of the European Commission.

In cases where the non-simplified ex-ante verification would remain applicable, no safeguards on the delays and costs of the verification have been included in the Council's general approach, in contrast with the Parliament's position.

Other changes were introduced in the Council's general approach, such as the inclusion of micro-enterprises in the scope, accompanied by supporting measures and an extended entry into application for such microenterprises (4 years after entry into force).

Negotiations between the Council and the Parliament, known as “trilogues”, are due to start in Q4 2024, after the European Parliament will have chosen its rapporteurs and shadow-rapporteurs.

EASA will continue to closely follow this file. EASA is currently internally considering to submit a targeted update of its position paper to its members, by September. EASA is also envisaging an online session in September or October to discuss green claims relying on green-house-gas emission reduction, compensation, or offsets.

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