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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 5.8.2009
COM(2009) 317 final/2

2007/0198/ COD

CORRIGENDUM:

Replaces COM(2009)317 of 22/06/2009.
Concerns all linguistic versions.

OPINION OF THE COMMISSION

**pursuant to Article 251 (2), third subparagraph, point (c) of the EC Treaty,
on the European Parliament's amendments
to the Council's common position regarding the
proposal for a**

**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity and
repealing Regulation (EC) No 1228/2003**

**AMENDING THE PROPOSAL OF THE COMMISSION
pursuant to Article 250 (2) of the EC Treaty**

OPINION OF THE COMMISSION

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on the European Parliament's amendments
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1. INTRODUCTION

Article 251(2), third subparagraph, point (c) of the EC Treaty provides that the Commission is to deliver an opinion on the amendments proposed by the European Parliament at second reading. The Commission sets out its opinion below on the amendments proposed by Parliament.

2. BACKGROUND

Procedure

Proposal transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council (document COM(2007) 531 - 2007/0198/COD) on:	19.09.2007
European Economic and Social Committee opinion delivered on:	22.04.2008
Committee of the Regions opinion delivered on:	10.04.2008
European Parliament opinion (first reading) delivered on:	18.06.2008
Common position adopted by unanimity on:	09.01.2009
European Parliament position (second reading)	22.04.2009

3. PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

This proposal is part of the third legislative package for an internal EU gas and electricity market ("Third Package"), which includes two Directives and three Regulations.

The main objective of the package is to put in place the regulatory framework needed to make market opening fully effective and create a single EU gas and electricity market in the interest of the citizens and of the industry of the European Union. This will help to keep prices as low as possible and increase standards of service and security of supply.

This is done through the following main measures:

- more effective regulatory oversight by independent national regulators;
- establishment of an Agency to ensure effective cooperation between national regulators and take decisions on all relevant cross-border issues;
- compulsory cooperation between network operators to harmonise all rules relating to the transport of energy across Europe and to coordinate investment planning;
- effective unbundling of the generation and transmission of energy so as to eliminate any conflict of interests, promote network investment and prevent any discriminatory behaviour;
- increased transparency and better functioning of the retail market;
- increased solidarity and regional cooperation between Member States to ensure greater security of supply.

4. OPINION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE AMENDMENTS BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

4.1. Amendments accepted by the Commission

At its Plenary Session of 22 April 2009, the European Parliament adopted a compromise package which had been agreed with the Council in view of reaching a second reading agreement.

These amendments concern essentially:

- the limited strengthening of the role of the agency in the process of making codes and guidelines and overseeing the work of the European Network of Transmission Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E),
- provisions strengthening of the role of the agency in the process of establishing a 10-year network development plan, and
- role of the ENTSO-E regarding third countries.

The Commission accepts the compromise package as it is in line with the overall purpose and the general characteristics of the proposal.

5. CONCLUSION

Pursuant to Article 250(2) of the EC Treaty, the Commission amends its proposal as set out above.