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## **Safety of pressure equipment in the internal market**

The Committee of Permanent Representatives<sup>1</sup> today endorsed an agreement between the Hellenic Presidency of the Council and European Parliament representatives on a draft directive aimed at reinforcing and simplifying the market surveillance for the free movement of pressure equipment in the internal market.

Manufacturers and distributors of pressure equipment such as boilers, pressure cookers, fire extinguishers, heat exchangers, steam generators, industrial piping, safety devices and other storage vessels intended to resist a pressure of more than 0.5 bars, will find it easier to make available their products in the internal market.

Such equipment is widely used in the process industries (oil and gas, chemical, pharmaceutical, plastics and rubber and the food and beverage industry), high temperature process industry (glass, paper and board), energy production and in the supply of utilities, heating, air conditioning and gas storage and transportation.

The directive will cover new pressure equipment made by a manufacturer established in the EU or, be it new or second-hand, imported from a third country.

Pressure equipment that is non-compliant or risky will be withdrawn from the market more easily, thus enhancing safety for consumers and other users.

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<sup>1</sup> The Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) of the governments of the 28 EU member states is responsible for preparing the work of the Council.

# **P R E S S**

Minister Kostis Hatzidakis, current chairman of the Competitiveness Council under the Greek Presidency, outlined that *"the Pressure Equipment directive is the second, along with the Radio Equipment directive, legislation dealing with technical harmonization to be concluded during the Hellenic Presidency. It will solve technical problems but also protect citizens' health. I wish to thank the three European institutions involved in the difficult negotiations, for their constructive spirit, which allowed for great results"*.

The Pressure Equipment Directive provides, together with the directives related to simple pressure vessels, transportable pressure equipment and aerosol dispensers, for a common framework for equipment subject to a pressure hazard.

The new directive is in line with the *Single Market Act*, which stressed the need to restore consumer confidence in the quality of products on the market and the importance of reinforcing market surveillance. Furthermore it supports the "better regulation" policy and the simplification of the regulatory environment as a means to improve the competitiveness of EU companies.

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