AMENDMENT TO THE RECOMMENDATION ON THE LENGTH
OF TIME ALLOWED FOR COMMENTS

Note from the Delegations of the Nordic Countries

According to a Recommendation adopted by the Committee the normal time limit for comments on notifications should be sixty days. A time limit of forty-five days may be applied if a Party is prepared to extend this shorter time limit upon request from other Parties. It has been observed that Parties intending to comment on a notification usually request an extension of the comment period although the time limit is sixty days or more. In certain cases, such requests are reasonable when ample time is needed for studying the notified proposal in detail. However, time extensions are frequently requested at the very end of the sixty days period. This may cause difficulties for the decisionmaking authorities within the notifying Party. Sometimes these difficulties may prove unnecessary when the request does not result in any comments from the requesting Party.

In order to avoid unnecessary prolonging of the processes needed for Parties to adopt proposed regulations the Nordic Countries would like to suggest an amendment to the above mentioned Recommendation. The full text of the revised Recommendation would accordingly read as follows:

Length of time recommended for comments:

The normal time limit for comments on notifications should be sixty days. A Party may, if necessary, however, indicate in its notification that it will proceed to implement the proposed measure after forty-five days if no comments or requests for extension of the time limit have been received from other Parties within that time. Any Party which is able to provide a time limit beyond sixty days is encouraged to do so. However, if a Party wishes to be granted an extension of the time limit beyond sixty days, a request for such an extension should be presented within the first forty-five days of the comment period.