

**Public consultation - Update for units of measurement directive**

**Subject :** Units of measurement consultation

I would like to comment on the consultation on SI measurement units and Directive 80/181/EC. In principle I feel that whilst the SI system should be (and is) the primary system of measurement across Europe, other measurement systems can operate alongside in certain fields and/or certain countries for historic reasons since they are well understood and add to diversity and local flavour. I think the need for this Directive should be re-evaluated since it may no longer be necessary. All European countries now use the SI system so the Directive has served its purpose and achieved its goals. It would be very good to repeal the Directive since it is doubtful whether it achieves very much any more and could be restrictive. Trying to get the last few non-SI units eliminated totally will be a lot of effort for a tiny (or zero) actual benefit and at high cost.

On the main questions:

1. I have no comment on use of the katal. Other than that the Directive should be open enough to cater for new internationally agreed units of measurement without needing constant updating.
2. I feel the priority of SI units in specific cases should be left to other Directives. It is not necessary to cover it here.
3. Arbitrary units should be allowed by whatever means is appropriate.
4. Ratios should be permitted
5. Yes the exemption in Article 2b should be maintained. Units in international treaties should be allowed.
6. Indications specific to sectors should continue to be allowed. It makes no sense to ban indications that are well understood – for example pixels for computer screens.
7. Yes the use of supplementary indications should be allowed to continue. Banning dual-marking seems to be excessive regulation. Surely the marking needed on the packaging should be determined by the marketplace, subject only to the requirement that it shall be accurate. This is a matter for local laws on trading standards and correct description of products.

If the aim of the Directive is to force the UK to give up its unique measuring systems then I would deplore that. Requiring road signs (speed limits and distances) to be changed to metric would cost millions of pounds of taxpayers money. About £80Million according to one estimate. And it would also cause confusion - albeit only for a transitional period whilst people became accustomed to the new measurement units. But surely there must be a better use of taxes than changing road signs.

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