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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 13.3.2003
COM(2003) 111 final

2003/0048 (ACC)

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Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

**concerning the Community's position at the International Tropical Timber
Council on the extension of the International Agreement on Tropical
Timber (1994)**

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The International Agreement on Tropical Timber (1994) entered into force on 1 January 1996. It is due to expire on 31 December 2003.
2. At the meeting of the International Tropical Timber Council of 4-9 November 2002, it was proposed that the Agreement be extended for a further three-year period, to 31 December 2006, under the provisions of Article 46 of the Agreement.
3. The proposed decision does not affect the European Community's contribution to the administrative budget of the International Tropical Timber Organisation. That contribution remains zero.
4. The purpose of this proposal is to authorise the European Community to vote in favour of extending the Agreement at the next meeting of the International Tropical Timber Council.

Proposal for a

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concerning the Community's position at the International Tropical Timber Council on the extension of the International Agreement on Tropical Timber (1994)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 133 in conjunction with Article 300 (2) and (3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,¹

Whereas:

1. The International Agreement on Tropical Timber (1994) was signed and provisionally applied by the Community under Council Decision 96/493/EC.²
2. The Agreement remains in force until 31 December 2003 unless the International Tropical Timber Council decides to extend it for a further three years, to 31 December 2006.
3. Extension of the Agreement is in the Community interest.
4. The European Community's position in the International Tropical Timber Council therefore needs to be determined,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The European Community's position at the International Tropical Timber Council shall be to vote in favour of a three-year extension of the International Agreement on Tropical Timber (1994).

¹ OJ C, p.

² OJ L 208, 17.8.1996, p. 1.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President