



European Communities

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

# **SESSION DOCUMENTS**

English Edition

1987-88

---

22 MAY 1987

SERIES A

DOCUMENT A2-72/87

**REPORT**

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Energy, Research  
and Technology

on timber stocks and deforestation in the developing  
countries in the light of energy policy in the Third World

Rapporteur: Mr STAES

WG(VS1)/3542E

PE 104.660/fin.  
Or.Da.



At its sitting of 9 September 1985, the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr DEPRez on the gradual disappearance of forests in the world and the economic and ecological disasters to which this leads (Doc. B 2-660/85) pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology for an opinion.

At its meeting of 10 March 1986, the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr ULBURGHS on technology transfer to the Third World as part of the drive to halt deforestation (Doc. B 2-1633/85) pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure to the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology as the committee responsible and to the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Committee on Development and Cooperation and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection for their opinions.

This report is also to be considered as the committee's opinion on the first motion for a resolution (Doc. B 2-660/85).

At its meeting of 28 May 1986, the committee decided to draw up a report and appointed Mr STAES rapporteur.

At its meetings of 14 July and 24 September 1986 and 30 April 1987, the committee considered the draft report and, at its meeting of 19 May 1987, adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Poniatowski, chairman; Mr Adam and Mr Kolokotronis, vice-chairmen; Mr Staes, rapporteur; Mr Bonaccini (deputizing for Mr Ippolito), Mrs Bloch von Blottnitz (deputizing for Mr Härlin), Mr Boesmans (deputizing for Mrs Lizin), Mr Chiabrande, Mr Ciancaglini, Mr Croux (deputizing for Mr Rinsche), Mrs Faith, Mr Linkohr, Mr Petronio, Mrs Peus, Mr Pinto, Mr Remacle (deputizing for Mr Sanz Fernandez), Mr Robles Piquer, Mr Schinzel, Mr Sherlock (deputizing for Mr Seligman), Mr Turner, Mr Wedekind and Mr West.

The Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on Development and Cooperation and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection decided not to deliver opinions.

The opinion in letter form of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is attached.

The report was tabled on 22 May 1987.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION .....	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT .....	7

Annex I: Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr ULBURGHS, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on technology transfer to the Third World as part of the drive to halt deforestation (Doc. B 2-1633/85)

Annex II: Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr DEPREZ, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on the gradual disappearance of forests in the world and the economic and ecological disasters to which this leads (Doc. B 2-660/85)

Opinion of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

The Committee on Energy, Research and Technology hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

A

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on timber stocks and deforestation in the developing countries in the light of energy policy in the Third World

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr Deprez on the gradual disappearance of forests in the world and the economic and ecological disasters to which this leads (Doc. B 2-660/85),
  - having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr Ulburghs on technology transfer to the Third World as part of the drive to halt deforestation (Doc. B 2-1633/85),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Doc. A 2-72/87),
- A. having regard to the rapid and systematic disappearance of forests in the Third World and the growing realization of this situation on the part of public opinion,
  - B. whereas the consequences of this situation are serious both for the Third World and elsewhere and a global responsibility arises here on a world-wide scale, not least on account of oxygen production, climatic disruption, the greenhouse effect and desertification,
  - C. having regard to the major impact of massive deforestation on the climate of the entire planet and the drastic consequences which this might have,
  - D. whereas this serious disruption of the environment also has direct repercussions at social level, particularly for the poorest sections of the population, above all in the Third World but also elsewhere,
  - E. whereas the causes are largely to be sought in the problem of Third World indebtedness which encourages these countries to export a maximum of tropical hardwoods, minerals and agricultural produce, this being accompanied directly by large-scale deforestation, and in the use of wood for heating and cooking in the Third World countries and the exploitation of natural forests for the sale of tropical hardwoods and for the clearance of land for other uses,

- F. whereas such large-scale deforestation also has direct consequences for the position of the forestry industry in, for example, the European Community on account of the influence exerted on the price of wood, which adversely affects both the balance of payments and employment in the European Community as well,
- G. whereas better organization of the forestry industry in the Community is an important step towards countering the ruthless exploitation of forests in the Third World,
- H. whereas European Environment Year is a good opportunity to take the necessary action as far as this urgent problem is concerned,
- I. whereas the transfer of appropriate technology from the Community to the Third World is part of the measures that must be taken,
- J. whereas, in Third World countries, women are those initially concerned by this problem,

- General remarks -

- 1. Urges the IMF and the World Bank to review radically and as a matter of urgency their policy in this area in the context of the problem of Third World indebtedness;
- 2. Urges firms in the Community to plan their large-scale use of wood so as to anticipate their future needs over a timescale of 50 to 100 years, and requests the Commission to call a conference of major wood consumers in the Community in order to define a policy for forestry in the Community;

- As regards the Third World -

- 3. Draws attention to the importance of independent, decentralized energy supplies and of renewable sources of energy;
- 4. Considers that the Commission should establish a programme for encouraging Western manufacturers to engage in long-term market research and development for appropriate renewable energies such as photovoltaic or wind pumping for irrigation, microhydroelectricity and biomass for heat and motor fuel;
- 5. Advocates links between EEC manufacturers and local manufacturers in the developing world to enable rural energy equipment to be assembled and maintained locally;
- 6. Urges that Third World countries should pursue an energy policy aimed at maximum independence and based on indigenous energy sources;
- 7. Points out that large-scale reforestation programmes are often ineffective and calls for the introduction of small and medium-scale reforestation projects tailored to the particular needs and characteristics of the areas concerned;

- As regards the wealthier countries -

8. Urges that a contribution be made to drawing up more detailed studies that make the necessary distinctions at local level and bear in mind the complexity of the situation;
9. Reminds the Commission of the importance of tropical hardwood sales to the Community as a source of income and employment in many Third World countries;
10. Stresses the need to formulate and encourage the development of a forestry policy for the European Community, since such a policy does not at present exist;
11. Calls for improved coordination through consultation in the areas of research and research requirements, training, implementing policy and with regard to the various economic, ecological and social sectors that are involved here;
12. Would like to see forestry policy completely divorced from agricultural policy and, subsequently, a forestry fund set up tailored to, among other things, the crucial needs of the Mediterranean areas, which are seriously affected by forest fires, erosion and desertification, and which are in urgent need of reforestation;
13. Calls on the Commission to include forestry policy in the Community's trade and cooperation agreements with third countries as a means of checking the unbridled exploitation of forestry resources and a systematic replanting and, in particular, calls for measures for local planting projects;
14. Calls for adaptation of tax legislation and the laws of succession in the Member States in order to create more opportunities for the forestry industry and avoid the fragmentation of entire forests, the parcelling out of open ground and clearance felling;
15. Points to the great importance of the forestry industry to employment and regional development;

- In conclusion -

16. Requests the Commission to encourage specific projects and draw up and implement programmes that translate into practice to the greatest possible extent the abovementioned demands;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the international organizations concerned.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT1. General data

- 1.1. 30% of the land in the world is covered with forest.
- 1.2. By 1981 50% of the forest that had once existed in the world had disappeared mainly through human agency.
- 1.3. 20 million hectares of forest disappear each year.
- 1.4. Only 10% of the forestry resources in the world are managed satisfactorily, this being the case particularly in Western Europe.
- 1.5. The function of the forest is of great importance both economically and ecologically. On the latter point, particular significance attaches to the forest's function as a climatic regulator (disappearing forests increase the greenhouse effect so resulting in world-wide climatic disruption) and as a producer of oxygen.
- 1.6. It is alarming to note in this connection the bewildering rate at which the tropical rain forest is disappearing. In Africa this kind of forest has virtually disappeared, in Asia it is still found in island areas and, in South America, the depletion is alarmingly rapid and widespread.
- 1.7. The situation of indebtedness of the Third World countries is significant here: both the financial institutions in the northern countries and the policy of the World Bank and IMF encourage these Third World countries to export as much as possible - large-scale deforestation being the direct result - partly directly in the form of exports of tropical hardwoods and partly indirectly through the rapid expansion of large-scale agriculture and open-cast mining, which means the disappearance of large wooded areas.
- 1.8. Various private companies from the Community Member States are directly involved in exploiting commercial projects for which forestry resources in the Third World have to be sacrificed.
- 1.9. As part of European Environment Year 1987, it is to be recommended that the authorities in the Community Member States, both at government level and at the level of private companies and banks, realize their enormous responsibility in this area and act accordingly through specific policy measures.

2. The energy and wood situation in the Third World2.1. The energy situation

- 2.1.1. In most Third World countries the energy situation is extremely critical. The consumption of wood was significant even before the oil crisis; more expensive oil imports alongside the population explosion have provided a further stimulus to the consumption of indigenous timber stocks.



- 2.1.2. Deforestation on a massive scale, particularly around the more populated areas, has already led to deforestation of dramatic proportions in a number of countries. The tropical virgin forest, for example, is disappearing at the rate of 11 million ha per year. 14 ha of wood or 10 000 trees are lost every minute. A number of tropical species of trees are already extinct. Drastic action is required without delay.
- 2.1.3. In only a small number of the Third World countries concerned has this situation prompted an appropriate energy policy, such as reforestation programmes or conversion to alternative or renewable sources of energy.
- 2.1.4. The basic problems facing the Third World countries can be attributed to factors connected with the oil crisis, the crisis in fuelwood and the crisis in demand.
- 2.1.5. In these countries wood always used to be a free source of energy. Various developments have resulted in timber becoming an increasingly scarce commodity in many areas and, hence, commercially more attractive.
- 2.1.6. This trend has an important social dimension in that the dwindling supply of timber primarily affects the poorest section of the population.
- 2.1.7. Particularly the inhabitants of rural areas are dependent on fuelwood and charcoal for a large part of their energy. It is becoming more difficult for an increasing number of people in the Third World countries to gather firewood. Approximately 1 300 million people in rural areas of the Third World do not have enough wood to cook their meals. By the year 2000, the number in this position will have risen to 2 500 million.
- 2.1.8. In many Third World societies it is the task of women to collect firewood, which means that deforestation imposes an extra burden above all on women and has thus become one aspect of their struggle for emancipation.
- 2.1.9. The increase in the price of fuelwood in a number of towns in the Third World means that the poorer sections of the population have to spend more than a quarter of their incomes on fuelwood.
- 2.1.10. Furthermore, the ecological consequences are clear. Deforestation also reduces the water retention of the soil and increases soil erosion. In a number of countries such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the more rapid rate at which the soil is washed away means an increased risk of flooding.
- 2.1.11. Lack of wood results in the population changing over to other organic fuels, such as dung. As a result manure is lost for agricultural purposes, making farmland less fertile.
- 2.1.12. A number of studies therefore show that phenomena such as desert encroachment are attributable to irresponsible human activity (massive deforestation, large-scale agriculture, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, single-crop farming, etc.) rather than to reasons of a climatic nature.

- 2.1.13. Countries in the Third World have barely 120 watts of electricity available per person. In the USA the figure is 2 900 watts per person or 24 times as much. Yet electricity consumption in most developing countries is growing rapidly, by between 5 and 15% per year. Between 90 and 95% of investment in electricity generating capacity in Third World countries benefits major towns and industries. 1 700 million people living in rural areas in the Third World have no light and no means of using electrical appliances. As a result of the economic crisis the expansion of the electricity grid in the Third World has largely come to a standstill.
- 2.1.14. Specialists point here to the largely unused potential for decentralized electricity generation using hydroelectric means, the biomass, wind power or solar energy.
- 2.1.15. Only a small proportion of the existing hydroelectric potential is exploited: in Asia barely 9%, in Latin America 8%, in Africa 5% (1980 figures). Most Third World countries go in for large-scale hydroelectric projects of up to 12 600 megawatts, which often have drastic and disastrous consequences for the environment and living conditions of the local population. Yet here is great potential for small-scale electricity generation using hydroelectric means. For example, China has brought electricity to one third of its 2 200 administrative rural areas using small hydroelectric stations.
- 2.1.16. Rapidly growing trees and bushes can prove valuable in a number of cases, e.g. soil erosion, thanks to progress in biotechnology.
- 2.1.17. Technology transfer in the area of small-scale refineries for processing agricultural waste can also make a contribution to combating the energy problem in Third World countries.

## 2.2. The woodfuel situation

Most Third World countries are aware of the woodfuel crisis. Awareness of this crisis may, however, produce counterproductive responses ranging from hasty policy-making to underestimating or falsely estimating the realities of the local situation.

### 2.2.1. Rural areas

- 2.2.1.1. Around 80% of wood consumers live in rural areas. They fetch wood from where it grows, i.e. near at hand. They have been managing forestry resources for generations according to their own traditional way of thinking.
- 2.2.1.2. The main problems are overpopulation, migration, conflict and drought, which result in the search for more agricultural land and hence clearance felling. At the same time, the population's top priority is not the maintenance of their wood supplies but their need for food, water, housing and health care. Anyone who, in those sometimes extreme conditions of life, comes to tell them how important wood and forestry resources are cannot therefore expect to be given a very sympathetic hearing.

2.2.1.3. Technologically speaking, it is not difficult to produce and offer for sale an appropriate model of stove or oven that can help save a great deal of wood. Yet here cultural problems stand in the way of the acceptance of such ideas. In addition, their open fire also provides a source of light which is not available with a closed oven. At the same time, many women in rural areas have themselves already taken action to try to remedy the growing wood shortage. The rural woman is in any case the crucial figure in any action or campaign.

## 2.2.2. Urban areas

- 2.2.2.1. In smaller urban areas wood supplies are found on the outskirts of towns. Delivery is arranged by transport contractors.
- 2.2.2.2. In larger towns problems rapidly arise in obtaining satisfactory supplies. The wood then has to be transported over increasingly large distances. Only someone with motorized transport available can cope, a situation leading to monopolies and control of the local wood trade. Consignments of, for example, charcoal may then be transported over distances of up to 600 kms.
- 2.2.2.3. Wood is then found in areas where it can be removed free of charge, so resulting in the theft of wood from protected forestry areas and to corruption among those officially employed in the forestry industry.
- 2.2.2.4. Ruthless exploitation on these lines is coupled with the construction of new roads. At the same time, the expansion of agricultural areas occasionally provides large quantities of cheap wood as a result of clearance felling.
- 2.2.2.5. When harvests fail, farmers start selling wood (full-length timber) from their land in order to resolve cash problems.
- 2.2.2.6. The scarcer wood becomes, the higher the price. This encourages an increasingly large number of people to become wood dealers. They purchase wood from small and poor peasant farmers who are only too willing to sell and who do not subsequently replant. As soon as one area has been cleared, the wood dealers can transfer their activities elsewhere.
- 2.2.2.7. Increased wood prices make other energy sources more competitive. This means that different appliances and cooking utensils have to be purchased. The poorest section of the population cannot afford this and is condemned to buy increasingly expensive wood. Ultimately they prepare fewer hot meals, so undermining their health.
- 2.2.2.8. The promotion of energy-saving stoves can help as the investment is rapidly recouped through lower energy consumption. At the same time, local cultures are not always open to such developments. The promotion of energy saving stoves must therefore be carried out in the context of educational programmes directed above all at women. The avoidance of smoke indoors from open fires in the absence of chimneys indoors will probably convince them more than arguments about energy conservation.

- 2.2.2.9. Large scale reforestation in order to provide adequate wood fuel seems, generally speaking, unrealistic in view of the substantial cost involved compared with the cost of wood fuel and charcoal, even though that too is rising. Supplies are after all derived - whether legally or illegally - from natural forests and not from cultivated ones.
- 2.2.2.10. As efficient stoves become increasingly widespread and more widely used, woodfuel plantations will have more of a chance, particularly where local farmers are concerned.
- 2.2.3. An effective strategy
- 2.2.3.1. Some suspicion has arisen in Third World countries of reforestation and afforestation projects on account of the failure of a number of ill-conceived projects.
- 2.2.3.2. Statistics alone are not enough. Complex local situations must be looked into in much greater detail. A distinction must be made between the various aspects of the problem, between rural and urban areas and between the specific circumstances obtaining within each country and each region.
- 2.2.3.3. Top priority clearly lies with the urban regions, with measures tailored specifically to genuine requirements, sensibilities and wants.
- 2.2.3.4. There is no constant relationship between woodfuel requirements and the rise in the population, not least because the food pattern can change during the urbanization process. For example, an increasing number of workers take their hot meals in small eating houses.
- 2.2.3.5. Where woodfuel problems exist in urban areas, a solution cannot automatically be found in improved arrangements for the supply of woodfuel since other sources of energy are cleaner, safer, make for quicker cooking and are easier to manage.
- 2.2.3.6. Investigations in this field concentrating on urban and suburban areas are urgently needed. This is the only way of clarifying the wishes of those concerned and ensuring that appropriate solutions are accepted.
- 2.2.3.7. Giving priority to the wants and needs of the population itself applies just as much to the rural areas. Here, the following questions would appear important:
- does the solution offered accord with the manner in which the problem is perceived locally?
  - is the problem genuinely felt to be a priority at local level?
  - can the local population reasonably afford to help resolve the problem in the light of what it itself sees as its priority requirements such as its own food supplies?

- Are the advantages to be derived by the local people themselves from the resolution of the problem proportionate to the efforts they will have to make in collaborating to this end?

2.2.3.8. Only if there are positive answers to these questions, is there a reasonable chance of success for projects or programmes.

### 3. Forestry in the European Community

It is of considerable importance that forestry policy in the Community itself should be developed as effectively as possible in order:

- to restrict wood imports from the Third World as much as possible;
- thereby to place greater emphasis on the internal market in Third World countries;
- to improve the equilibrium of the Community's balance of trade;
- to realize that, in this area as well, ecological and economic interests go hand in hand within a soundly conceived economic system.

#### 3.1. Timber production in the Community

3.1.1. Over the period 1960-1980 average timber production in the Community was 80 million m<sup>3</sup> per year, corresponding to approx. 2.4 m<sup>3</sup> per hectare of wooded surface area. Better planning can increase output to between 5 and 8 m<sup>3</sup>. The Community meets only 40% of its own timber requirements.

3.1.2. Wood is the Community's principal import after oil. Wood imports are still increasing annually by an average of 2% and are likely to do so until the year 2000. Timber output in the Community is growing annually by 1%. In 1984, the trade balance deficit for timber was Bfrs 373 thousand million on an annual basis. The Community is the world's largest timber importer.

#### 3.2. Coordination

3.2.1. Improved coordination of Community forestry policy is essential and it is possible only through an efficient consultation structure, which is still lacking today.

3.2.2. The Commission should work more closely together in this area with the FAO, the OECD, the UN and the IUFRO (International Union of Forestry Research Organizations).

3.2.3. Better coordination is also necessary for the forestry and research centres in the Community, where there is at present far too much duplication and far too many gaps, as well as in compiling forestry statistics with a view to drawing up mutually comparable cost-benefit analyses for forestry projects (see here the activities of the Commission's forestry statistics service).

- 3.2.4. Responsibility for forestry must be vested in one body even though the situation and, hence, policy requirements differ from region to region. Otherwise an effective policy is not possible.
- 3.2.5. In each region regular consultations must be held between all the various sectors involved in the forestry sector (owners, trade unions, industries and firms engaged in exploitation, processing, trade and transport, policy makers in the field of regional planning, conservancy organizations, organizations in the field of nature education and teaching, the leisure sector).
- 3.2.6. There exists no inventory of research requirements in the forestry sector at Community level. New programmes are necessary in this area.

### 3.3. Policy planning

- 3.3.1. Forestry policy is essentially a long-term policy. Careful planning is therefore necessary. The planning periods involved here can cover up to as much as 150 to 200 years.
- 3.3.2. Sudden policy changes are extremely undesirable in this area.

### 3.4. Relationship with agricultural policy

- 3.4.1. Not least for this reason, forestry policy should be divorced from agricultural policy both in each region and Member State and at Community level.
- 3.4.2. Forestry policy must not be a residual policy, compelled to derive its inspiration from the consequences of a changing agricultural policy. But that is how matters stand at the present time; because of excessively large agricultural surpluses, it is intended to have agricultural land to fulfil various other functions in the forestry sector. Policy in both sectors should be formulated, decided and implemented separately from one another, as equal partners within an overall policy for physical planning.
- 3.4.3. The aspects of nature, agriculture and recreation will also continue to sustain fundamental damage for as long as forestry policy remains dependent on agricultural policy and, hence, will always continue to provide new sources of conflict, e.g. in the matter of wooded banks and small groups of trees.
- 3.4.4. In this connection, it is also inevitable that, still with a view to a better forestry policy in the Third World, Community policy on agriculture on the one hand and on Third World cooperation on the other hand will have to be brought into line with one another in a much more consistent manner, whereas today the one policy is continually getting in the way of the other or is even diametrically opposed to the other.

3.4.5. It is highly desirable in this context that a Community fund should be set up for forestry. As long as forestry policy remains tied to agricultural policy, a fund of this nature will not be politically acceptable because the common agricultural policy already consumes so much money that any further extension of that policy for the sake of forestry will not be feasible politically.

### 3.5. Relationship with other Community policy sectors

3.5.1. More use should be made of the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund to assist forestry policy in the Community. The economic and social aspects as far as more backward regions are concerned are evident here.

3.5.2. Should the Community agree on a genuine and effective regional planning policy, this would be an enormous step forward.

3.5.3. An economically oriented forestry policy must in no circumstances result in a primarily economic function being allocated to forests, which in fact should be given a different priority (e.g. nature conservancy and management, education, leisure, buffer zones, etc.).

### 3.6. Relationship with the Third World

3.6.1. In view of the growing timber imports by the Community, there is a great chance that the natural forests in the Third World will fall victim to still further clearance.

3.6.2. Technology transfers (know-how in the area of fundamental research, production and systems maintenance) are necessary in order to secure appropriate sources of energy generation for Third World countries.

3.6.3. The policy of inter alia the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in connection with the problem of Third World indebtedness must be urgently reviewed not least in the light of the export policy and forestry resources of the Third World. This enormous responsibility applies naturally to all persons, groups and bodies, both in the public and private sectors, that are involved with the problem of Third World indebtedness. The result is after all the uncontrolled and very swift clearance felling on a massive scale of substantial forestry resources where the forest ecosystems sometimes require up to 300 years in order to regenerate.

3.6.4. This ruthless exploitation also ensures that the price of wood remains relatively low, with the result that a Community forestry policy has less of a chance and that wood consumption continues to rise or remains at a high level. The return on capital invested in the forestry sector is only 3%.

3.6.5. Encouragement for forestry in the Community is naturally also connected with measures to combat acid rain and hence also with action to combat further deforestation in the Third World.

### 3.7. Measures relating strictly to forestry activities

Particular examples here are:

- afforestation of fallow land;
- systematic rejuvenation of forest timber;
- measures to combat forest fires and tree diseases: both phenomena are increasing sharply;
- more careful selection of wood species;
- re-utilization of waste from saw mills: today, only one third of this material is re-used. This implies the modernization of saw mills, where even modest improvements are very worthwhile;
- re-utilization of bark and lignin. The latter is usually discharged at present, so giving rise to environmental problems with water purification;
- re-utilization of wood and hence of many finished products that are no longer in use and are idly thrown away or burnt;
- more training opportunities and further-training courses for foresters and lower-grade forestry officials, to be achieved through, among other things, exchange programmes in the Community;
- planting of trees outside forests;
- action to combat monopoly positions in the forestry industry;
- an active information policy on forestry management aimed at small forest owners;
- aid from the EAGGF for structural improvements in the forestry sector;
- a specific forestry policy for mountainous areas in connection with action to combat erosion and landslides;
- a specific forestry policy for the Mediterranean areas;
- not a uniform Community forestry policy but a strengthening of regional policy under one coordinating Community forestry policy, to take account of, inter alia, regional differences;
- active enlistment of voluntary workers in forestry management.



### 3.8. Measures not strictly related to forestry activities

- 3.8.1. Replacement of wood by other materials using new materials technology without making or continuing to make the mistake of heavy energy consumption in the production of these new materials and of air pollution and waste of raw materials in the use of plastics instead of wood.
- 3.8.2. Recycling of paper and use of recycled paper beginning with the Community's own administration. Overall, 30% of waste paper is at present recycled. This percentage can quite easily be increased to 40%.
- 3.8.3. Changes in the provisions of tax legislation and the law of succession designed to encourage forestry. All kinds of fiscal measures and provisions in the law of succession as applied in the Member States directly favour the fragmentation of forestry resources, clearance felling, neglect and land speculation.
- 3.8.4. Action must be taken to combat the sometimes far-reaching fragmentation of forestry resources which in fact renders effective forestry management impossible.
- 3.8.5. The relationship between forestry and the biomass in the context of energy production should be developed in concrete terms both in the Community and in the Third World. Scandinavia has some very interesting examples to show in this sphere.
- 3.8.6. The conflicts between afforestation and animal husbandry should be resolved.
- 3.8.7. Much greater emphasis should be placed on the significance of the forestry industry in terms of employment and regional development.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (DOCUMENT B 2-1633/85)

tabled by Mr ULBURGHS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on technology transfer to the Third World as part of the drive to halt deforestation

The European Parliament,

- A. deeply concerned at the dramatic situation in the Third World where forests, including tropical forests, are rapidly disappearing,
  - B. whereas the social repercussions of this, especially for the poorest sections of the population, are of great importance,
  - C. having regard to the partial responsibility of the western countries, and therefore of the Member States of the Community, for this situation,
  - D. whereas the Community's positively profligate timber consumption, the import of tropical wood into the Member States, the agricultural and forestry policies being pursued in the Third World from the Community countries, the total inadequacy of the Community's own forest acreage and the promotion of large-scale farming based on single crops are in part responsible for this situation, which is a source of concern for both the Third World countries and the western countries,
  - E. whereas the problem can already be largely overcome by the use of appropriate alternative energy sources,
  - F. whereas the western countries are transferring to the Third World far too little technology related to alternative forms of energy in terms both of equipment and of maintenance and know-how in general,
  - G. whereas, furthermore, a number of Third World countries are increasingly frequently drawing up energy supply plans in which alternative energy sources are being given an ever more important role,
1. Decides to draw up a technology transfer programme specially designed to make use of alternative energy sources in Third World countries and seeking primarily to investigate how technology transfer from the Member States in this field should be organized;
  2. Attaches importance not only to transfers of equipment and specialists but also and above all to the transfer of know-how in the use, manufacture and indigenous production of equipment so that the Third World countries can become independent of the western countries as quickly as possible;
  3. Instructs the relevant committee to draw up a programme along these lines and to present it to Parliament;
  4. Instructs its President to take the steps necessary for the implementation of this resolution.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (DOCUMENT B 2-660/85)

tabled by Mr DEPRez

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the gradual disappearance of forests in the world and the economic and ecological disasters to which this leads

The European Parliament,

- A. concerned at the FAO's finding that every year 125 000 km<sup>2</sup> (or four times the surface area of Belgium) of forest disappear, mainly in the tropics where nearly half of the world's forests (4 billion hectares) are found;
  - B. whereas, for every hectare replanted in the world ten are cleared for cultivation, so that afforestation does not make up the loss;
  - C. whereas this process of destruction threatens the production of wood, some of which is used in industry and the rest for heating (two billion rural dwellers use wood for cooking and heating; two hundred million people live from the forest);
  - D. having regard to the importance of the forest in the ecological balance - for instance, the roots of many tropical species contain bacteria which fix nitrogen in the atmosphere and the roots penetrate deep into the earth, holding a sufficient amount of water to reduce the damage done by drought;
  - E. whereas, if the forests of tropical and arid regions continue to 'shrink' at the current rate of 0.6% of their surface area, their resources will have been virtually destroyed in about fifty years;
  - F. having regard to the 'pressure of population' as an essential cause of deforestation, increased agricultural production requiring, as it does, improved yields but also the expansion of arable land at the expense of forests;
  - G. whereas, as the supply of wood gradually shrinks, millions of rural dwellers throughout the world have to make ever greater efforts to find wood. Thus in Tanzania, finding wood to heat a household requires up to three hundred man-days a year;
  - H. whereas in the year 2000 firewood needs will amount to at least 2 600 cubic metres, although the forest will be able to supply only 1 500 million;
  - I. whereas most countries of the world do not have a forestry policy as in Finland where the forest has only been exploited for the last century and wood accounts for one third of agricultural incomes, owing its importance to a systematic policy of subsidies, tax incentives and the training of farmers in forestry;
1. Calls on the Commission to draw up a report on the current forestry situation in the European Community and the countries of the Lomé Convention (ACP states), and on forestry policies at all levels: international organizations (FAO, UNDP, ...), states, regions, local authorities, ...;
  2. Calls on the Commission to make proposals, on the basis of this report, for the development of forestry in the Community, wood being a product in which Europe has a clear balance of trade deficit (13.5 billion ECU in 1982) and exports covering only 20% of imports;
  3. Calls on the Ministers for Education and Agriculture of the Member States to develop training in forestry;
  4. Calls on the Community to increase its aid to international organizations that combat the destruction of forests in the Third World;
  5. Calls on the institutions of the Lomé Convention to debate the problem as a matter of urgency and work out effective and rapid solutions for the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries;
  6. Calls on its appropriate parliamentary committee to study the situation and submit a report on action undertaken no later than one year after the adoption of this resolution;
  7. Requests its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the ACP states, and the international organizations concerned.

PE 104.660/fin./Ann.II

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr M. Poniatoski, chairman of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

---

Brussels, 25 May 1987

Subject: Technology transfer to the Third World as part of the drive to halt deforestation (Doc. B 2-1633/85)

Dear Mr Poniatoski,

At its meeting of 25 and 26 May 1987<sup>1</sup>, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food examined the above question in connection with the report that Mr P. Staes is drawing up for your committee.

My committee considered that the discussion should be limited to the question of the influence of the Community's agricultural and forestry policy on desertification in the developing countries.

The Community's needs in wood and wood products greatly exceed the supply of wood from the forests in the Community, which is the world's largest net importer of wood and products derived therefrom, especially of tropical woods from the developing countries. Under the Lomé Convention, the Community has cooperation agreements with some of these supplier countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. These agreements cover not only trade - and the importance of tropical wood production for the developing countries must be emphasized - but also financial and technical cooperation aimed at protecting and developing the forests as an essential factor in the defence of the environment and the fight against desertification. The Community is moreover, in its own right, a contracting party to the International Tropical Wood Agreement.

---

26 May 1987

Our committee is well aware that the tropical forests are over-exploited at present and it realizes the serious consequences this entails for the climate, agricultural production and the future of the local populations, as well as for the security of supply of tropical woods. It is thus in the interests of both the Community and the developing countries that we mobilize all our scientific and technical resources to halt the reduction in the area of tropical forest and try to prevent the desertification of the developing countries.

To achieve this end, Community trade policy should contribute to the strategy outlined above. The Community should encourage wood producers to adopt a code of good ecological conduct for the exploitation of tropical forests, providing for compulsory re-forestation to guarantee the preservation of the forests, and the Community should also carry out in its own tropical forests (the 7 million hectares in French Guyana) pilot projects to demonstrate good management which could serve as an example.

Yours sincerely,

Juan Luis COLINO SALAMANCA

---

<sup>1</sup> The following took part in the vote: Mr COLINO SALAMANCA, chairman; Mr EYRAUD, vice-chairman; Mr DEBATISSE, Mr EBEL (deputizing for Mr FRUH), Mr GATTI, Mr HERRERO MEREDIZ (deputizing for Mr VAZQUEZ FOUZ), Mr JACKSON, Mr MAFFRE-BAUGE, Mr MOUCHEL, Mr NAVARRO VELASCO, Mr T. ROSSI, Mrs ROTHE, Mr SIERRA BARDAJI, Mr SPATH, Mr STEVENSON (deputizing for Mr MORRIS), Mr THAREAU and Mr VERNIMMEN.