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COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE FORESTRY SECTOR

Commission Communication

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FOR THE FORESTRY SECTOR

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I INTRODUCTION

The Community has 43 million hectares of woodland (55 million counting semi-woodland areas of maquis, garrigue, and other wooded land,) This is the equivalent of 40% of the agricultural area and covers about 20% of the total land area. It is very disproportionately spread between countries and between public and private ownership. There are nearly six million private woodland owners.

The Community's forestry sector employs over two million people in wood production, harvesting, processing and marketing.

Some 115 million cubic metres of wood are produced per year. A number of other products and services, including cork, resin and recreation, are less significant globally but of considerable importance locally.

Climate and soil conditions in the Community's woodland areas are often better suited to forest production than those in the countries from which the Community actually draws its supplies. Nonetheless the Community produces only about one half of the timber requirements of its 320 million inhabitants. The resulting substantial trade deficit varies from 15 to 20 000 million ECU, depending on the product range considered. The Community's requirements appear modest, however, compared with those on other continents: timber consumption per inhabitant in the Community is only half that in North America.

Consumption of wood and derived products in the Community is, however, tending to increase and, according to expert opinion, will, by the year 2000, be more than 75 million cubic metres higher per year, an increase of some 30%.

The outlook for timber harvested in the Community between now and the end of the century is also encouraging. An increase in annual production of approximately 30 million cubic metres is expected, a rise of some 25%.

The increase in production will thus not be enough to cope with the likely increase in internal consumption.

World production and consumption forecasts, however, indicate that the Community's ability to make up its forest product shortfall from elsewhere in the world may be limited. If present trends continue, and unless there is a radical change in attitudes and in the policies in force, the 33 developing countries that are presently net exporters of forest products will be reduced to perhaps ten by the end of the century. The Community is thus faced with the need to develop its own production of wood, while at the same time maintaining the trade patterns that will be essential for supplementing its wood supplies.

Despite the Community's production shortfall, its forests are under-exploited. It is estimated that after felling more than 20% of the biomass remains in the forest because it is not profitable to extract it, and that some Community woodlands are under-exploited because selling prices do not compensate adequately for extraction costs.

Large areas of the Community's forests are subject to serious damage from pollution, fire, disease and storm.

For nearly 30 years, forestry has tended to be overshadowed by agriculture and has thus been a matter of minor concern to the Community, but there is now an increased awareness of it. The public too has a better appreciation of the economic, ecological and social values of the Community's forests.

The functions of woodland are not only multiple but complementary. There is no need to stress its ecological and protective functions; its role in the conservation of the environment and the protection of water regimes, the soil, fauna and flora are now well known. This role must be fully respected.

Social and recreational functions will also become increasingly prominent. The construction of a framework for the leisure activities of the population and maintenance of variety in the landscape are aims to which society today attaches increasing importance.

The primary importance of forests lies, however, in their economic function as a source of raw materials which are indefinitely renewable provided that the forests are well located and managed. They also give rise to a variety of jobs along a production chain, which must be exploited as part of the strategy to develop rural zones in order to maintain their population and improve their standard of living. Lastly, the common agricultural policy is now laying increasing stress on the role of forestry in the future, and over large areas the importance of forestry could be increased.

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The Community has been active however in forestry in the past. It has brought in schemes (see Annex I) which although they have been restricted in geographical scope and often specific and intermittent in nature, have amounted to nearly 500 million ECU over the past five years. This money has not, however, been fully taken up by the Member States because the operations for which funds have been available have often been subsidiary to general agricultural schemes.

Past experience has shown that what is required are independent forestry initiatives forming a coherent whole designed to permit optimum harnessing of the entire range of forest functions in Europe.

The Community has also taken measures which, without being specifically forestry measures, nonetheless represent an essential contribution towards the safeguarding, development or utilisation of woodlands. The recent directives on the limitation of emissions of pollutants are a significant example. These indirect measures of benefit to the forestry sector will also have to be reinforced.

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In January 1986 the Commission published a discussion paper on Community action in the forestry sector (1), which was followed by a resolution of the European Parliament (2) and an opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (3). It also served as a basis for widespread consultations with the national forestry administrations and the main Community forestry organisations concerned. These revealed a consensus of opinion that the Community ought now to begin sustained action to foster forest protection, development and optimal utilisation, not least as an effective contribution towards solving its agricultural problems.

The Commission takes the view that the time has come to define a strategy for harmonious development of forestry in the Community and to initiate a plan of action designed to enable forestry to play its full part in the new moves towards European integration, to contribute to the return to economic growth and above all to make an effective contribution to the readjustments that must be made.

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- (1) Discussion paper on Community action in the forestry sector (COM (85) 792) and complementary memorandum (COM (86) 26)
 - (2) Resolution of the European Parliament, October 1986 (OJ No C 297, 24 11 1986, p 98)
 - (3) ESC opinion 635/86 of 02 07 1986

This aim is now within the Community's reach thanks to the new means opened up by the Single Act and the reform of the Structural Funds

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In the present communication it is the Commission's intention

- to outline the medium- and long-term Community forestry strategy it advocates,
- to propose adoption by the Council of a Community forestry action programme for the years 1989 to 1992

II COMMUNITY FORESTRY STRATEGY

In 1981 the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Resolution concerning the objectives and principles of forestry policy (1) This was supported at the time by Parliament (2) and by the Economic and Social Committee (3) This proposal was not endorsed by the Council, however

Since then, times have changed and the Community too, it has grown bigger, its field of activity has widened, its decision-making process has been adjusted (Single Act) and it has decided to be directly active in the forestry sector (4)

Furthermore, at the SILVA International Conference held in 1986, the highest political authorities of all the Member States unanimously and solemnly agreed to protect trees and forests from threats of every kind, to fight against desertification and increase tree cover, and to develop research and training and boost the exchange of information

The decisions subsequently taken by the Council on increased protection for the Community's forests (4) and on protection of natural resources and action against desertification in Africa (5) and the positive outcome of the consultations entered into following the Commission Memorandum of January 1986 on Community action in the sector bear witness to the change

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- (1) COM (78) 621 final, 01 12 1978
 - (2) Resolution embodying the opinion of the European Parliament, OJ No C 140, 05 06 1979
 - (3) ESC opinion of 22 May 1979
 - (4) Council Regulation (EEC) Nos 3528/86 and 3529/86 of 17 11 1986 on the protection of the Community's forests, OJ No L 386, 21 11 1986
 - (5) Council Resolution of April 1986

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The Commission considers that the Community's forestry strategy must embody certain principles and follow certain guidelines. These principles will be set out, the aims of the strategy presented and its scope delineated and the type of action and instruments required to implement it indicated.

A PRINCIPLES

The following basic principles must guide the Community's strategy

- The sector is made up of numerous directly overlapping sub-sectors (seed production, nurseries, public and private forests, first and second stage processing, services, etc.) It has a number of complementary functions (production, protection, recreation, etc.) A unified comprehensive strategy is thus vital.

On the unity of this strategy will depend the strength and coherence of the programme (coherence within and between sectors and within production chains) and, at the end of the day, its effectiveness.

- The Community forestry strategy must also promote solidarity within the sector, between the various parts of the forestry and forest-based industries in the face of the Europe-wide threats to forests and on the occurrence of natural disasters such as catastrophic windblow.
- The Community's strategy must be to guide and supplement the work of Member States, regions, local authorities and private individuals. As a general rule the Community aspect of activities must be auxiliary to the national.
- Forests are in general long-term investments not geared to abrupt changes of course. It is essential that the Community sets its sights on the long term and that its schemes be characterized by continuity.

- The Community's forestry sector is vast and diversified. The areas in which the Community could take action are numerous and varied, whereas its resources are limited. Too scattered an effort must be avoided and selectivity displayed by focusing on essential areas. The resulting operations will thus reach "critical mass" and their impact will be more discernible.

B AIMS

The eight main aims of the Community's forestry strategy are

to participate fully in land use planning and encourage the development of rural life in the Community by a more systematic and wider contribution on the part of the forestry sector as a whole to regional development, particularly in country areas

As agriculture undergoes a serious crisis that will result in a certain amount of land being released from production, forestry and related activities appear to be a credible alternative in a number of regions. The recent Council Decisions on early retirement from farming (1) and set-aside (2) are both intended to promote afforestation of abandoned land. Although not a universal remedy, well regulated forestry development integrated into a programme for regional revitalization may be an important means of socio-economic reorientation for certain regions.

to ensure the security of supply of renewable raw materials. Although the Community has reserves of woody biomass in the form of standing timber that would afford some security of supply in a short-term emergency, it is very dependent on the outside world in the medium and long term for its essential forestry product requirements. For certain products dependence is so great as to constitute a factor of insecurity for the Community.

The likely increase in Community consumption means that the Community's strategy ought at least to be aimed at preventing present levels of dependence from increasing in the future.

(1) Regulation (EEC) No 1096/88 OJ No L110, 29 04 1983
(2) Regulation (EEC) No 1094/88 OJ No L106, 27 04 1983

to contribute to environmental improvement, by encouraging the development of carefully located and healthy forest ecosystems, that effectively protect soil fertility, water availability and air quality and play a full part in creating harmonious landscapes. Non-polluting techniques and installations in the processing industries must also be promoted

to give the forestry sector its own dynamism, i.e. enable it to carry out its essential functions. The Community will have to contribute to the promotion of forestry and forest products, encourage the action of economic factors in the forestry sector as well as facilitate the internal movement and exportation of forest products

to protect the Community's forests against the major kinds of damage to which they are subject. This is essential for conservation of plant and animal species and to halt the pernicious progress of forest dieback in Northern Europe and of desertification in the south

The forest is an inheritance from our forefathers that we are under an obligation to hand on in as healthy a state as possible to future generations

to extend the role the forest has as a natural setting for relaxation, recreation and culture, by facilitating public access and encouraging initiatives that will help forge close links between the forests and the populations of adjacent areas

to participate in development in the most disadvantaged areas of the world, particularly in developing countries, by helping to utilise their forestry resources rationally and fight against desertification by effective scientific and technical cooperation on forestry matters and by means of appropriate financial aid for specific or integrated forestry projects

to give forests and the forestry sector their full place in the formulation and implementation of Community policies, by taking better account of the sector's prospects and constraints. Forests and the forestry sector must not in future be allowed to be the poor relations in development and economic growth

C RANGE

The areas in which the forestry strategy could apply are the following

1 In the Community

- Forestry infrastructure infrastructural improvement, in particular roadways giving access to the public transport network, will help open up forest areas at present land-locked
- Structures the rationalisation of parcels of wooded land and of land to be planted will allow the creation of forest management units operating at a lower cost and hence more effectively
- Silvicultural techniques and processing the promotion of modern techniques of protection, silviculture and processing will help strengthen the competitive capacity of the forest/wood product chain
- Rules harmonisation of national provisions or adoption of Community provisions on reproductive material quality and on standards for forest products at the various stages of manufacture will also help make the industry more competitive
- Location of industry better correspondence between forests and processing plants should be sought at regional level Incentives for the installation or development of processing industries, particularly small and medium-sized undertakings, and the introduction of some means of guaranteeing supply will facilitate the achievement of better balance
- Organisation the development of forest owner associations and of groups for improving forestry skills and the use of modern techniques to make the forest product market more transparent ought to make the forestry/wood product industry more efficient
- Development of certain sectors of production the Community lags particularly far behind in the development of certain forest products which are generally secondary in importance to wood The Community ought to try to stimulate these lines of production

Cork production is a case in point. On the fringes of both agriculture and forestry, some features of this sub-sector have remained unchanged since the Middle Ages and it deserves specific Community support. Carried on in some of the most neglected regions of the Community, its future is uncertain owing to lack of impetus.

Resin and certain other products also merit consideration.

Tropical forest products too, especially tropical timber, represent for some overseas departments and territories a source of great wealth that could be harnessed by rational exploitation for the benefit both of these regions and of the Community as a whole.

Most of the action that the Community could initiate in the above-mentioned fields will not, however, be of guaranteed effectiveness unless preceded or accompanied by action in the following areas:

- Forestry inventories and forecasts

There is an absence at Community level of comprehensive coherent information on the outlook for production and consumption of the main forest products, on the economics and profitability of the sector and on aids and taxation.

Community action on any scale in the forestry sector will require a specific effort to provide adequate resources for the collection, storage and analysis of the required information.

- Forestry research and technological development

Forestry research (running the gamut from seed production to the harvesting of trees) and the development of the forest product processing industries, particularly wood processing, are the two complementary poles of the Community's R & D in the forestry sector. The aim of the one is to increase the availability of forest products and improve their quality under satisfactory economic and environmental conditions, and the development objective is to make efficient use of raw materials and expand the potential of the European processing industries by improving their competitiveness and broadening the range of their products.

Stepping up forestry research is one of the priorities of the Community strategy. It should lead to the expansion of research programmes and to better coordination at Community level.

Technological development should help to forge the links of the European wood production chain and to create new products based on advanced, high-performance techniques.

- Education/public awareness Although the general public is becoming increasingly favourable towards forestry, it is not fully aware of the problems facing the sector. From time to time it gets excited about the damage caused by acid rain or summer fires or perhaps the difficulties that certain forest-based industries run into (the case of certain paper mills springs to mind). Such public concern tends to be short-lived, however.

Popular education in forestry matters, generally the prerogative of the big countries richly endowed with forest resources, is generally lacking in the Community. An effort must be made to ensure that the Community's activities are favourably received and indeed actively participated in by the general public.

- Training and formation Attention will have to be paid in the strategy to development of the training in forestry of persons either directly or indirectly active in the sector. There are two areas where encouragement from the Community might be necessary: in the creation of extension services and the development of forestry management consultancy.

2 Outside the Community

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- Programmes and projects in the developing countries the technical and financial support of the Community for forestry projects integrated in development programmes in a manner consistent with the principles and aims of the Community action programme for the conservation and rational utilization of natural resources requires special emphasis in the strategy. In this context, one important element will be the fight against desertification.
- International organisations the Community must take part in the forestry work of international organisations (FAO - ITTO - IUFRO, etc.) in order to promote forestry in the world by turning the know-how of its foresters to advantage, to make its strategy felt at world level, to contribute to liberalisation and development of international trade in forest products, and also to permit greater understanding by the international community of the European forestry situation.

D MEANS

The means to be used for applying the Community forestry strategy are of three orders:

- to promote certain forestry measures or procedures generally by granting financial incentives
- to launch Community-supported forestry schemes
- coordination of national forestry policies

1 General Community financial incentives

These consist of the granting of aid to encourage the introduction and implementation throughout the Community of certain forestry practices or measures of interest to the Community generally. They include schemes for the protection of forests.

2 Community-supported forestry schemes

Community-supported forestry schemes are entered into with partners (Member States, regions, public or private organisations) and are co-financed by the Community (on a shared-cost basis). They include forestry schemes forming part of the IMPs.

In certain exceptional cases the Community mounts activities alone (i.e. without partner or associate), primarily for experimental or demonstration purposes. The joint fire-fighting exercise "Florac 85" is a good example.

3 Coordination of national forestry policies

The comparative study of forestry policies in the Member States recently made by the Commission, in collaboration with the FAO, showed that on certain essential points approaches were identical or convergent, but that on others they diverged greatly.

The aim of coordinating national forestry policies is by no means to achieve uniformity, this would be incompatible with the diversity of national, regional and even local situations.

But between the "everyone for himself" that has so far dominated the formulation of national policies and "the Community for everyone" of a common forestry policy there is room for wide-reaching efforts to achieve some degree of alignment. This is the approach for coordination of national forestry policies that the Commission proposes to adopt in future.

E INSTRUMENTS

The instruments for application of the Community's forestry strategy are of two orders:

- administrative
- financial

to be set up by a series of specific regulations, directives or decisions, taking account of Articles 43, 130A to E and 130R of the Treaty, and by the future regulation which will be drawn up according to Article 130D (see also point III F).

1 Administrative instruments

The Commission proposes that a Standing Forestry Committee be formally set up to give opinions on the implementation of the Community forestry strategy and to help coordinate national forestry policies. This Committee would also take over all the tasks assigned to the Committee on Forest Protection (1). It would replace COFOR (Committee on Coordination of Forestry Policies). The Commission will update its 1978 proposal on the subject, which is still pending before the Council (2).

More use should also be made of the advisory committees already in existence, and in particular the Advisory Committee on Forestry and the Forest-based Industries (3).

2 Financial instruments

The cost of Community forestry sector activities will be met from the existing Funds (EAGGF-ERDF-ESF) within the permitted limits and from the funds available under the standard budget headings, e.g. protection of the environment (Chapter 66), studies and research (Chapter 38) and operation of committees (Chapter 2500).

In the developing countries the Community can contribute towards the funding of forestry projects via the European Development Fund (EDF) (in the case of the ACP countries, under the Lomé Convention) or via the other instruments provided for for this purpose in the Community budget.

Within its terms of reference, the EIB can also contribute towards the financing of forestry schemes both in the Community and in non-member countries.

F IMPLEMENTATION

The forestry strategy which the Commission advocates for the Community naturally features both medium- and long-term measures. It will have to be implemented gradually, each phase covering a period of four years. Each phase will be the subject of two biennial reports, at the end of the second and fourth years. The second of these reports will contain the guidelines and objectives proposed for the following four-year phase.

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- (1) Committee set up by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86
 - (2) Proposal for a Council Decision annexed to the communication of 6 December 1978 from the Commission to the Council
 - (3) Commission Decision 83/247/EEC of 11 May 1983, OJ NO L 137, 26 05 83,

The first phase will cover the period 1989-1992. This will coincide with the term of office of the next Commission, it will end with the completion of the internal market. It represents for the Community a real transition between the past (a period of nearly thirty years of inaction on the forestry front) and the future (a period of several decades during which the forestry sector is destined to play an active role contributing to a higher standard of living and a better quality of life in the Community). It is therefore of crucial importance.

III FORESTRY ACTION PROGRAMME (1989-1992)

The forestry schemes the Commission envisages in the short term concern the Community itself (1). They form a four-year forestry action programme covering the period 1989-1992, focusing on the following five priority areas:

- Afforestation of agricultural land
- Development and optimal utilisation of woodland in rural areas
- Cork programme
- Forest protection
- Back-up measures

The measures proposed in this forestry action programme should have positive effects for the Community in the short and medium term:

- In the short term, they will reinforce the protection of woodlands, by the afforestation of land released from farming, by the revitalisation of a sector in decline and by a better contribution by the forestry sector to the development of the rural areas of the Community.
- In the medium term, they will lead to a general improvement of the situation in the forestry sector enabling it to fulfil its essential functions more efficiently to the benefit of the entire Community.

(1) The Commission will in due course present complementary proposals for a reinforcing and coordinating action by the Community to assist forestry in non-member countries, particularly developing countries, on the basis of the bilateral and multilateral agreements to which the Community is party.

A AFFORESTATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Commission has on several occasions expressed the view that forestry in its various forms can constitute an alternative to agriculture both as a source of additional income and as a use for land withdrawn from agricultural production in connection with the reform of the CAP

The scheme to encourage the cessation of farming and discontinuation of production on agricultural land (1) and the set-aside scheme (2) confirm this approach

Measures have thus been adopted with the framework of Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures to encourage the planting and improvement of woodland on holdings of main-occupation farmers. The scope of these measures has been broadened (Council Regulation (EEC) No 1760/87) to include forestry associations or cooperatives or groups which afforest agricultural areas belonging to main-occupation farmers and also part-time farmers receiving the extensification aid

However, these measures need to be adjusted if they are to make a real impact as regards afforestation of farm land, particularly land belonging to farmers taking early retirement and those involved in the set-aside scheme for arable land or the scheme to improve the economic efficiency of farm-forestry holdings

The Commission therefore proposes

- that the afforestation aid be extended to all natural or legal persons, including beneficiaries under the early retirement and arable land set-aside schemes, afforesting agricultural land,
- that the maximum eligible investment in afforestation be increased,
- that the maximum eligible investment in the improvement of woodlands and other silvicultural operations on farm-forestry holdings be increased,
- that special measures be adopted to promote cork-oaks,
- that special conditions be laid down where measures are implemented as part of a programme for the development and utilisation of forests in rural areas (see section B),
- that annual allowances to compensate for the deferral of income suffered as a result of planting woodlands on their holdings be granted to farmers not already qualifying for such allowances under the measures to encourage the cessation of farming or assist the less-favoured areas,
- that Member States be required to adopt provisions governing afforestation, principally to prevent patchy afforestation of the countryside, which would run counter to improving silvicultural and agricultural productivity and might lead to a deterioration of the landscape

(1) Regulation (EEC) No 1096/88, OJ No L110, 29 04 1988

(2) Regulation (EEC) No 1094/88, OJ No L106, 27 04 1988

B DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF WOODLAND IN RURAL AREAS

- 1 The Commission considers that the Community must in future concentrate on developing forestry in rural areas hardest hit by the crisis in agriculture. To that end, it proposes that programmes for the development and utilisation of woodlands be established in rural areas in accordance with the guidelines on cohesion.

The rural areas where these schemes will be concentrated are those where

- the conservation of the environment, including, among other things, the protection of the soil (against erosion), water resources and natural habitats plays an important role in general and for agriculture in particular,
- the promotion of forestry can improve the economy of the area by creating jobs,
- the social and recreational function of woodlands is particularly important for the well-being of the population

- 2 These schemes should be provided for in programmes to be submitted by the Member States. The following points should be stressed

- a) these programmes must contain a detailed description of the measures to be implemented,
- b) these measures must be capable of producing tangible results as regards "on the ground" situations. To achieve this objective, each programme must contain a series of factual data relating to the area concerned (1),
- c) the Commission, in close collaboration with the Member States and the regional and local authorities concerned will draw up operational programmes and decide what Community support is to be given
- d) particular attention will be paid to measures for the regeneration of forests damaged or destroyed by pollution, fire, disease or natural disasters, account being taken of their environmental impact, particularly as regards soil erosion
- e) as far as the measures referred to in Article 20 of Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 (afforestation of agricultural land) are concerned, where they form part of a programme for the development and utilisation of woodlands in rural areas, they will not be subject to the limits relating to eligibility of expenditure laid down in that Article

(1) The details required are listed in the text of the proposal for a regulation

3 For the schemes referred to in point a), the rate of the Community contribution will be determined according to the area concerned

4 Preparatory schemes, technical assistance, pilot projects

The Community must be able to play a part in the preliminary measures involved in preparing properly for the programmes for the development and utilisation of woodlands in rural areas, in particular by providing technical assistance for the preparation and implementation of such programmes and financing pilot and demonstration projects

5 Monitoring and assessment

The arrangements for monitoring and assessment provided for in the framework regulation, the draft of which was adopted by the Commission on 22 July 1987 (1), apply to the programmes for the development and utilisation of woodlands in rural areas

C CORK PROGRAMME

1 The cork sector (cork is among the products listed in Annex II to the Treaty) merits particular Community attention because the Community has, since the accession of Spain and Portugal, become by far the world's largest producer of cork, a product for which the prospects are good

The area under cork oaks has been declining for several years, mainly as a result of competition from agriculture. Nor is the renewal of the cork-oak plantations assured. The potential for production of the raw material in terms of both volume and quality is thus reduced. Encouragement must be given to the replenishment and improvement of the cork-oak plantations. This will benefit the whole Community and more particularly the Mediterranean regions concerned.

The Commission takes the view that the Community must give cork-growing and the cork processing industry a particular boost to enable it not just to weather the recession but actually to expand.

The following schemes are proposed

1) Carrying out studies aimed at

a) Drawing up an integrated research programme based on Community research programmes with a view to

- improving the productivity of cork-oak cultivation (genetic improvement, product quality, improvement of cultivation techniques),
- protecting the health of cork-oak plantations,
- promoting new uses of cork,
- preventing the gradual abandonment of cork-oak growing,

- b) Surveying areas formerly used for growing cork oaks where they could be re-established
- c) Establishing a typology of the various possible associations between cork oaks and other crops, with an analysis of their geographical location and their economic results
- d) Standardizing and approving cork products

2) Extension of agricultural regulations to cork

- a) Specific measures under Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 for cork oak growing and cork with incentives for cork-growers to re-establish or renovate their plantations

The aim is to renovate a significant part of the Community's current cork-growing area, some 800 000 hectares

The Commission proposes that the restocking of cork-oak plantations be done gradually. The Community will bear part of the cost of aid for this purpose, the amount varying from region to region

- b) Extension of the measures eligible under Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 to cork and various processed products (Headings 45 02, 45 03, 45 04)
- c) Extension to cork oak of the Community's plant health protection measures and the rules on seeds and propagating material for forestry

3) Setting up of an Advisory Committee on Cork

The Commission, having proposed this major package of measures, takes the view that in-depth discussions on the cork industry should continue in view of the conclusions of the Brussels European Council of 1988 set out in Annex IV B on the utilization of agricultural commodities in the non-food sector

D PROTECTION

- 1 The decisions on forest protection adopted by the Council on 17 November 1986 demonstrate the Community nature of action of this type

The provisions adopted need to be reinforced and amplified however to give the Community a set of effective tools for protecting its forests against the threats facing them, i e

- atmospheric pollution,
- fire,
- disease,
- weakening of the genetic potential

2 As far as atmospheric pollution is concerned, the Commission proposes

- that the network for the observation of damage to forests once a year for the whole Community, be broadened to make use of remote sensing techniques. The aim would be to examine the behaviour of certain particularly vulnerable or threatened forest stands, in order to obtain a fuller picture of forest decline and evaluate the results of the measures taken to remedy the situation,
- that coordinated analyses and studies be organised to meet the great and pressing needs, on the basis of the data gathered in the annual inventories and forest health reports and on the basis of a limited number of forest sample plots which are subject to constant in-depth monitoring ("permanent" observation plots),
- that in connection with the forestry information system proposed elsewhere (see III E 11) a system of coordinating information on the state of health of forests in the Community be established, which could be used by both the Community and the Member States

With the same aim the Commission emphasizes the particular importance of the rapid adoption by the Council of all its proposals on environment protection directives on large combustion plants, the limitation of emissions of pollutants from motor vehicles and the strict application by the Member States of Directive 84/360 EEC on the combatting of air pollution from industrial plants, in view of the impact these provisions will have on the health of woodlands

3 As regards forest fire, the Commission will ensure that the areas afforested or improved with Community aid, particularly in regions susceptible to forest fire, have appropriate features for reducing the risk of fire

The Commission proposes, in addition to the Community scheme in force, which covers only the prevention of forest fire, a Community system for improving the effectiveness of fire-fighting operations. This system would comprise the following

- organising joint fire-fighting exercises involving resources from several Member States with a view to preparing effective cooperation on fighting large-scale forest fires,

- encouraging the harmonisation of fire-fighting techniques, equipment and products with the aim of increasing efficiency,
- encouraging the organisation of further training for personnel specialising in forest-fire fighting,
- participating in the establishment of operational centres for the coordination of forest-fire-fighting resources in vulnerable areas

4 As regards disease, the Commission again draws attention to the role that can be played by the plant health measures established by Directive 77/93/EEC. The Commission is reviewing these measures with a view to adapting and reinforcing them in connection with the achievement of the internal market (see COM(87)97final)

The Commission will also see to it that the forest health reports presented annually by the Member States pursuant to Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 take account of all the causes of damage observed, including tree diseases

The Commission proposes helping to coordinate studies, experiments and pilot and demonstration projects aimed at protecting forests against tree diseases occurring throughout the Community so as to prevent them spreading

5 On the subject of the genetic potential of Community forests, the Commission proposes that this be safeguarded by the following means

- a) organising a systematic survey of forest stands which enjoy special protection in the Member States,
- b) encouraging the establishment of forest gene banks where these are lacking,
- c) keeping the inventory of these stands and the corresponding breeding material up to date (see below the European Forestry Information and Communication System),
- d) the evaluation, storage and production of seed from surveyed forestry material

6 The Commission also proposes that the Committee on Forest Protection set up by Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 be consulted on the programmes or projects relating not only to Community schemes for protection against atmospheric pollution and fire but also schemes for the protection of forests against disease and for the safeguarding of their genetic potential

E BACK-UP MEASURES

The effectiveness of the above-mentioned forestry schemes depends on two essential factors

- the performance of the sectors of production responsible for the processing and marketing of forestry products, in particular the timber industry,
- the existence in the Member States of a climate favourable to the implementation of the schemes. Such a climate needs to be developed or created to assist those in the Community who are prepared to play an active part in the development of forestry,
- the availability of adequate resources in the Community to enable the Commission to ensure that the schemes are efficiently managed and monitored

To that end, several back-up measures are needed

a) Back-up measures to improve the effectiveness of the forestry products industries, in particular the wood products industries

In order to improve the effectiveness of the planned forestry schemes, steps should be taken to enhance the performance of the sectors of production which are responsible either within forests or at the point of departure for processing and marketing forestry products, especially wood

The Commission is proposing therefore that the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 on improving the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed be extended to all forestry products, and in particular to wood. The operations that would be covered include

- in the case of wood felling, collection, de-barking, cross-cutting, chipping, storage, sawing, treatment for preservation, charcoal-making, packaging,
- in the case of other products all aspects of harvesting, storage, preservation, first processing and stacking and packaging following first processing,
- in the case of unprocessed timber and other forestry products which have undergone first processing better information on markets, help with marketing

(b) Back-up measures to create a favourable climate in the Member States

These include in particular

- the organisation of information/awareness campaigns,
- encouragement for the formation of forestry associations,
- coordination of advisory programmes,
- forestry information schemes,
- pilot/demonstration projects

1 Organisation of information/publicity campaigns concerning forests and wood

These campaigns will be targeted in particular at

- young people
- potential participants in forestry development
- consumers

The aim will be to make known the possibilities offered by the Community for safeguarding, developing and utilising woodlands and to make people aware of the European dimension to forestry problems

- Young people will be invited to plant trees (forestry projects)
- Tree-planting and forestry days organised annually in some Member States will be synchronised and extended to the whole Community to give them a European identity
- Campaigns will be mounted to promote the use of wood

2 Forestry associations

To improve the productivity and profitability of woodlands, particularly privately-owned woodlands and those on agricultural holdings, assistance should be given to the creation of forestry associations to help those involved in forestry in the following ways

- in land rationalisation for afforestation,
- in drawing up individual afforestation plans,
- in the implementation of afforestation schemes (including ancillary works),
- in the management of their woodlands,
- in the organisation of their marketing (joint sales, contracts)

The Commission therefore proposes that the creation of forestry associations be encouraged by means of degressive aids to cover establishment costs

The Member States would lay down the conditions to be met by the forestry associations to ensure that they operate properly (minimum membership, minimum area, duration, legal form) and are viable at the end of the five-year launching period

3 Coordination of advisory programmes

Coordination of agricultural and forestry advisory programmes is essential for the rapid and efficient implementation of the Community forestry action programme. To that end, close cooperation between the advisory services involved must be ensured

4 Forestry training

The Community has already adopted measures to improve forestry training for farmers operating farm-forestry holdings(1)

The Commission proposes extending these training schemes to the whole of the forestry sector

5 Pilot projects - demonstrations

The Community will organise pilot projects to show how the results of forestry research can be applied. In order to encourage new forestry techniques, etc., it will see to it that the results of these demonstrations are widely disseminated

The Commission proposes that special arrangements be made for this purpose

(1) Article 21 of Regulation (EEC) No 797/85, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1760/87, 15 June 1987

c) Back-up measures to provide the Commission with the resources needed to manage and monitor the action programme

These will include

6 The systematic coordination of the various Community instruments affecting the forestry sector

To ensure the consistency and effectiveness of the Community forestry action programme, it is essential that the Community instruments applied to forestry are systematically coordinated in this respect. The Commission will introduce the necessary procedure

7 The coordination of Member States' forestry policies

The Community forestry action programme will be effective only if the Member States' and the regions' forestry schemes on the one hand and those of the Community on the other are consistent. To ensure this, Member States will be requested to forward to the Commission, for its opinion, any forestry measures they are planning to take, and forestry programmes drawn up at regional or national level. Particular attention will be paid to forestry research programmes and afforestation programmes for land previously used for agricultural purposes

8 Two-yearly situation report on forestry in the Community and on the results of the Community forestry action programme

At two-yearly intervals the Commission will present to the Council and Parliament and to the Economic and Social Committee a situation report on forestry in the Community

The report may be accompanied by proposals seeking to resolve the problems raised in it for which a Community solution would be useful

9 Setting-up of a Standing Forestry Committee

Returning to certain aspects of its proposal presented to the Council in 1978, the Commission is proposing that a Standing Forestry Committee be set up whose task would be to

- 1) examine Member States' forestry policies and related measures and programmes and to make recommendations that would make them more coherent in the Community interest,
- 2) assist the Commission, in accordance with the rules laid down by the Council on the work of committees, on certain measures for the application of the provisions adopted under the forestry action programme,

- 3) consider all problems concerning forestry and related sectors submitted to it by the Commission

The Standing Forestry Committee will be given the tasks carried out by the Committee for Forest Protection and the COFOR (Group of Forestry Service Heads)

10 Establishment of an FADN forestry section

The addition to the Community Farm Accountancy Data Network of a section dealing with holdings of the farm-forestry or agri-sylvo-pastoral type would provide statistical data on the different types of holding concerned and bases that would be useful for developing viable models for farm-forestry holdings which would be used within the framework of rural development programmes

Around 2000 farm-forestry holdings of this type in the Community would have their accounts monitored and provide farm returns. These 2000 holdings would be added to the FADN accounting sample, of which they would form a special sub-unit

11 European Forestry Information and Communication System

The Commission believes that a Community information system based on sources available in the Member States and information collected at Community level (forestry statistics, forestry observation network, etc) and a network of forestry expertise is essential for the development and monitoring of the forestry action programme

The system would have to apply modern methods of processing information, including statistics and documentary information. It could be linked to other Community systems in order to expand its scope. Its aim would be to compile, process, (classify, analyse, compare) and disseminate forestry and other relevant information from different sources and to put them in a coherent and practical form for use by interested bodies. It would be based on certain criteria, notably of confidentiality and might eventually, depending on its development, be accessible to Member States and to other interested bodies (public and private research centres, universities, silviculturists, manufacturers etc)

The forestry information system would be created by steps. For the first stage priority would be given to data concerning forestry resources, the development of new resources (especially by the afforestation of agricultural land) and forest protection. The system would also be used for compiling the two-yearly report referred to in III E 8

12 In-depth studies

The Commission will make the necessary preparatory studies of matters connected with forestry problems, such as taxation and forestry and financial engineering for development of forestry projects on agricultural holdings

F FINANCING (see table Annex II)

The forestry action programme features a diversity of measures which will be funded from a variety of sources. However, it is envisaged that for most of them the financial contribution by the Community will be charged to the EAGGF Guidance Section.

EAGGF Guidance Section

- a) As regards the aid scheme for the afforestation of agricultural land and the renewal of cork oaks, funding will take the form of reimbursements to the Member States in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 797/85. The additional costs resulting from the proposal will start to arise in 1990 (reimbursements for operations carried out in 1989), amounting to about 9 million ECU in 1993 (reimbursements relating to the last year of this programme). It should be noted that the system of annual premiums established in this framework gives entitlement to reimbursements over a very long period (up to 20 years) after the end of the programme, although the annual amounts in question are fairly small (about 7 million ECU a year).
- b) The forestry programmes in rural zones represent a new type of EAGGF guidance aid. This will involve committing appropriations, within the limit of the amount entered in the budget, on the basis of operational programmes.

In view of the outlook as regards the availability of funds on the one hand and the time needed to establish the procedures for considering programmes and for setting up the first programmes on the ground, the first programmes are not expected to be approved until 1990, the second year of the action programme. The requisite appropriations are estimated at roughly 25 million ECU in 1990, rising to 70 million ECU in 1992 (fourth year of the programme).

- c) The proposed amendments to the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 (processing and marketing), making projects relating to wood and cork products eligible, entail no increase in expenditure. The annual allocation will be determined under the budget procedure and funds will be divided among the various sectors on the basis of the projects submitted.
- d) Broadly speaking, the additional costs to the EAGGF Guidance Section resulting from the proposed programme will arise from 1990 onwards: 34 million ECU in 1990 rising to about 100 million ECU in 1992. If the funding of programmes in the rural areas continues beyond 1992, commitments of 141 million ECU could be expected in 1993, subject to availability of funds.

Other funding arrangements

- e) As regards the establishment of the forestry information system, it is proposed that this be financed from the non-EAGGF agricultural budget (chapter 38 of the budget) at a rate of 0,5 MECU in 1989, rising to 1,2 MECU in 1992
- f) The improvement of forest protection will be brought about by amendments to the existing Regulations (EEC) No 3528/86 and No 3529/86. The additional expenditure will amount to 2,5 MECU in 1989 and 8 MECU a year for the remaining two years until expiry of the Regulations in question (1991)
- g) The replacement of the existing committees by the Standing Forestry Committee should not involve any additional expenditure

Total expenditure on forestry schemes

- h) The new measures proposed in the action programme will have little financial impact in 1989 (about 3 MECU). Expenditure will be significant from 1990 onwards, however, (43 MECU), rising by 1993, if all the measures are continued until then, to about 150 MECU

Total expenditure on forestry schemes

- i) Among the measures currently in hand is the aid scheme for the afforestation of agricultural land provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 797/85. This measure has been slow off the mark and despite the impetus that the recent arrangement for the set-aside of arable land and early retirement will give it, its scope is likely to remain limited (about 25 MECU in 1993) without the reinforcements proposed under this programme
- j) The regional measures, i.e. IMPs, Spanish, Portuguese and Irish programmes, represent higher expenditure, amounting to around 60/70 MECU a year for their forestry schemes
- k)-1) Counting the existing protection schemes (fire, pollution), the total cost of the measures currently in progress is expected to increase slowly to about 90 MECU a year in 1992 and 1993
- m) the full range of existing and proposed forestry schemes will therefore account for Community funds totalling 69 MECU in 1989, and, on the basis of this programme, this figure could rise to nearly 200 MECU in 1992 and over 240 MECU in 1993

G LEGISLATION

This explanatory memorandum is accompanied by the following

- A a proposal for a Regulation on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures (afforestation of agricultural land, including cork, training),
- B a proposal for a Regulation on the introduction of programmes for the development and utilisation of woodlands in rural zones (a measure in the context of the reform of the Structural Funds),
- C a proposal for a Regulation amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 as regards
 - cork and cork products,
 - wood and derived products,
- D a proposal for a Council Decision setting up a Standing Forestry Committee (1),
- E a proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 on the protection of the Community's forests against atmospheric pollution,
- F a proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86 on the protection of the Community's forests against fire,
- G a proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a European Forestry Information and Communication System (EFICS), notably as back-up to the Community forestry programmes

Other measures will be proposed in due course and in the light of experience

(1) Original 1978 proposal revised

ANNEX I

CURRENT COMMUNITY FORESTRY MEASURES

Between 1964 and 1984 the Community became involved in several specific forestry schemes of which a majority were directly linked to the common agricultural policy, and more especially the agricultural structures policy. The three following types of measures were taken:

- 1 Measures concerning the genetic quality of forest reproductive material marketed in the Community, in order to guarantee silviculturists supplies of quality seed and plants (1), plant health measures for the protection of forest plantations against disease (2), and measures to standardise wood in the round (3)
- 2 The Guidance Section of the EAGGF contributed between 1964 and 1976, on the basis of Regulation No 17/64/EEC on the conditions for granting aid from the EAGGF, to the implementation of various forestry projects affecting agricultural structures
- 3 Council Regulation (EEC) No 269/79 of 6 February 1979 (5) establishing a common measure for forestry in certain Mediterranean zones of the Community was aimed expressly at improving the factors affecting agricultural productivity notably by soil and water conservation. This measure enabled regional forestry programmes to be implemented consisting of a series of measures such as:
 - afforestation,
 - the improvement of deteriorated forests,
 - related work such as earthworks,
 - fire protection,
 - the construction of forest roads

The measure expired at the end of 1985 and was extended by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2088/85 of 23 July 1985 concerning the integrated Mediterranean programmes (6) and by Regulation (EEC) No 1401/86 introducing a common action for the encouragement of agriculture in certain less-favoured areas of Northern Italy (7)

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- (1) - Directive 66/404/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of forest reproductive material, OJ No 125, 11 07 1966
 - Directive 71/161/EEC of 30 March 1971 on external quality standards for forest reproductive material marketed within the Community, OJ No L 87, 17 04 1971
 - Directive 68/89/EEC of 23 January 1968 concerning classification of wood in the rough, OJ No L 32, 06 02 1968
 - (2) Directive 77/93/EEC of 21 December 1976 concerning plant health measures designed to minimize the risks of introducing into the Community plant diseases harmful to agriculture and the forest economy and their transmission from one Member State to another, OJ No L 26, 31 01 1977
 - (3) Directive 68/89/EEC, OJ No L 32, 06 02 1968
 - (4) OJ No L 34, 19 04 1964
 - (5) OJ No L 38, 14 02 1979, p 1
 - (6) OJ No L 197, 27 07 1985
 - (7) OJ No L 128, 14 05 1986, p 5

Similar measures have been introduced for Greece (1), the French overseas departments (2), Ireland (3) and Portugal (4) and Spain (5)

The period 1985 to 1988 saw considerable progress being made towards the adoption of a more comprehensive and consistent series of forestry measures

- Council Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 of 12 March 1985, on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures (6) provides for aid for afforestation and the improvement of woodlands on agricultural holdings. It is restricted however to farmers practising farming as their main occupation

At the same time, provision was made for the compensatory allowances granted to compensate for the natural handicaps in mountain and less-favoured areas to continue to be paid for 15 years where agricultural land is afforested

- Regulation (EEC) No 1760/87 of 15 June 1987 amending Regulation (EEC) No 797/87 referred to above (7) widened the scope of these measures so that

the afforestation aid may be granted to forestry associations or cooperatives or communities which afforest agricultural land,

the afforestation aid may, under certain conditions, be granted to farmers working part-time,

an annual premium per hectare may be paid if the afforestation leads to a reduction in agricultural production of at least 20 %,

the period for which the above-mentioned compensatory allowance may continue to be paid is extended from 15 to 20 years

- Regulation (EEC) No 1094/88 of 25 April 1988 most recently amending the abovementioned Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 further widened the scope of these measures so that

aid for afforestation may now be granted to farmers who receive the aid for setting aside arable land

- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1096/88 of 25 April 1988 establishing a Community Scheme to encourage the cessation of farming (9), provides also for the grant to elderly farmers who cease farming and who afforest their land of an annual allowance until they are 70 years old and an annual premium per hectare afforested for a period of 20 years

(1) Regulation (EEC) No 1975/82 of 19 July 1982, on the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece, OJ No L 214, 22 07 1982

(2) Directive 81/527/EEC of 30 June 1981, OJ No L 197, 20 07 1981

(3) Regulation (EEC) No 1820/80 of 24 June 1980, OJ No L 180, 14 07 1980

(4) Regulation (EEC) No 3828/85 of 20 December 1985 on a specific programme for the development of Portuguese agriculture, OJ No L 372, 31 12 1985

(5) COM 368/87, 10 07 1987

(6) OJ No L 93, 30 03 1985

(7) OJ No L 167, 26 06 1987

(8) OJ No L 106, 27 04 1988

(9) OJ No L 110, 29 04 1988

II Forest protection schemes

- On 17 November 1986 the Community undertook a two-fold plan to protect woodlands, firstly, against atmospheric pollution (1) and secondly against fire (2)

The principal aim of the first Regulation is to establish a periodic inventory of damage to forests caused by atmospheric pollution on the basis of a Community network of observation plots and to present annual reports on the state of health of woodlands

The Community is also taking part in experiments, pilot projects and demonstrations aimed at improving the methods of observing damage to forests

The estimated cost of the measure is 10 MECU over a period of 5 years

The second Regulation provides for Community involvement in a package of measures to prevent forest fire, comprising in particular aids for certain silvicultural schemes, the purchase of brush-clearance equipment, the creation of forest roads and fire belts, the organisation of information campaigns and the setting up of interdisciplinary data collection centres

The estimated cost of the measure is 20 MECU over a period of five years

III Forestry research projects

- A number of research programmes administered by the Commission and concerned directly or indirectly, and partly or totally with forestry and/or timber have been launched

1 Wood programme

- 1982-85 Wood as a renewable raw material,
- 1986-89 Wood, including cork, as a renewable raw material

These programmes cover the entire forestry and wood industry, cork having been added for the second programme. The current programme covers three topics: production and forestry holdings, processing and use of wood and cork as raw materials, manufacture of pulp, paper and chemicals from wood

A hundred or so contracts on a shared-cost basis for the three topics and coordination schemes have been set in motion for each of these programmes. The content of a third programme, for the period 1989 to 1992, is currently under discussion

(1) Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 of 17 November 1986, OJ No L 326, 21 11 1986
(2) Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86 of 17 November 1986, OJ No L 326, 21 11 1986

- 2 Biomass energy programme -
Development and recuperation of biomass for energy,
improvement of the production, exploitation and transport, storage
and drying of material,
conversion techniques basic studies - thermal conversion,
pyrolysis, gasification, methanol

- 3 Environmental protection and climatology (1986/89) in particular
the effects of atmospheric pollution on terrestrial and aquatic
ecosystems
 - a) direct effects of atmospheric pollutants on vegetation and
terrestrial ecosystems,
 - b) indirect effects of these atmospheric pollutants on vegetation
and terrestrial ecosystems,
 - c) relationships between the effects of atmospheric pollutants and
other factors contributing to the deterioration of land
ecosystems, particularly forests, such as drought, plant
diseases, fungi and parasites

- 4 F A S T II (Forecasting and Assessment in Science and
Technology) studies covering integrated development of
renewable natural resources among other things, forestry in the
long term, biological diversity and land use

- 5 Coordination of agricultural research
 - Agricultural research programme four of the seven
sub-programmes concern various aspects of forestry
 - Individual research projects, e.g. Dutch elm disease, oak wilt,
etc., in association with the development of plant health
measures and the control of reproductive material

- 6 Biomass and energy-from-waste demonstration programme

This programme comprises projects that bring together actual
research and development and the use of processes on an industrial
scale that would be too costly to risk undertaking on an R&D basis
only

At the moment, 20 of these demonstration projects involve forestry

one on biomass harvesting,
two on energy crops,
three on the processing of forestry product wastes,
four on heat and energy production by combustion,
ten on the production of gas, charcoal and fuel by gasification
and pyrolysis

The Commission is allocating 12 2 million ECU to these 20 projects

ANNEX II

Financial evaluation of the forestry action programme (in MECU)

Reimbursement/Commitment in	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
A <u>NEW MEASURES (F A P)</u>					
<u>EAGGF Guidance Section</u>					
a) Amendment to Reg 797/85					
- cork	p m	0,5	1	1,5	2,1
- afforestation and other measures	p m	8,8	19,3	28,5	39,3
- total	p m	9,3	19,3	30	41,4
b) Forestry programmes in rural zones	p m	25	40	70	(100)
c) Amendment to Reg 355/77, processing and marketing of forest products, cork, etc					
	p m	p m	p.m	p m	p m
d) Total EAGGF Guidance (additional)	p m	34,3	59,3	100	(141,4)
<u>Chapter 38 non-EAGGF agricultural expenditure</u>					
e) Forestry information system	0,5	1	1,2	1,2	(0,6)
f) Reinforcement of protection schemes (fire, pollution)	2,5	8	8	(8)	(8)
<u>Administrative appropriations (cost of meetings)</u>					
g) Standing Forestry Committee	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p m,	p m
h) TOTAL for new schemes	3,0	43,3	68,5	(109,2)	(150)
B <u>MEASURES IN HAND (reminder)</u>					
<u>EAGGF, Guidance Section</u>					
i) Reg 797/85, Art 20, afforestation aids (not including set-aside of arable land and the cessation of farming)	5	5	10	15	25
j) Regional measures	55	65	70	65	60
<u>Chapter 38 Non-EAGGF agricultural expenditure</u>					
k) Protection (fires, acid rain)	6,6	6,3	6,1	(7)	(7)
l) TOTAL for measures in hand	66,6	76,3	86,1	(87)	(92)
m) ALL FORESTRY SCHEMES existing and proposed					
	69,6	119,6	154,6	(196,2)	(242)

N B The estimates in brackets are not figures for this programme They are given as a guide for evaluating probable total expenditure up to 1993

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No _____

amending Regulation (EEC) No 797/85
on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures,
as regards the afforestation of agricultural land

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and in particular Articles 42 and 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (3),

Whereas the Community's efforts to reduce output of agricultural products which are in surplus should be accompanied by effective measures for the afforestation of land taken out of agricultural production,

Whereas to that end the measures provided for in Article 20 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 of 12 March 1985 (4), as last amended by Council Regulation (EEC) No 1094/88 of 25 April 1988(5), should be adapted and strengthened,

(1) OJ No C ,
(2) OJ No C ,
(3) OJ No C ,
(4) OJ No L 93, 30 03 1985, p 1
(5) OJ No L106, 27 04 1988, p 28

Whereas therefore the aid for afforestation should be extended to all persons carrying out the afforestation of agricultural land, and whereas the ceilings on such aid should at the same time be raised,

Whereas an annual premium per hectare afforested, to compensate for the loss of income due to the afforestation of agricultural land, may encourage farmers to afforest such land,

Whereas it should be for the Member States to lay down the conditions governing the afforestation of agricultural land,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 is hereby amended as follows

- 1 Article 15(3) is deleted
- 2 Title VI is replaced by the following

"Title VI

Forestry measures on agricultural holdings

Article 20(a)

- 1 Member States may grant aid for the afforestation of agricultural land to farmers, including those receiving the aids provided for in Title I or Title II of this Regulation or the aid provided for in Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1096/88 of 25 April 1988 establishing a Community scheme to encourage the cessation of farming (6)

Aid for afforestation may also be granted to any other individual and to forestry associations or cooperatives or other bodies which afforest agricultural land

- 2 Member States may grant aid to farmers fulfilling the conditions of Article 2(1)(a) for investments in woodland improvements such as the provision of shelterbelts, firebreaks, waterpoints and forest roads, and for measures to restore woodland affected by natural disasters
- 3 The cost of adapting agricultural machinery for forestry work shall form part of the investments referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2
- 4 The actual expenditure incurred by Member States pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be eligible for financing from the Fund up to the following
 - 80% of the cost of afforestation and forest roads,
 - 60% for the other work referred to in paragraph 2,subject to an investment ceiling of 80 000 ECU per holding, of which not more than 20 000 ECU may apply to woodland improvements, and to maximum eligible amounts of

- 1 800 ECU per hectare for afforestation, including the establishment and reconstitution of cork oak groves,
- 700 Ecu per hectare for woodland improvements and the provision of shelterbelts,
- 1 400 Ecu per hectare for the renewal and improvement of woodland under cork oaks,
- 18 000 Ecu per kilometre for forest roads,
- 150 Ecu per hectare provided with firebreaks and waterpoints

Article 20b

- 1 Member States shall grant an annual premium per hectare afforested, for a maximum of 20 years from the initial afforestation, to farmers who afforest agricultural land and who do not receive the premium provided for in Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 1096/88

- 2 The maximum eligible amount of the annual premium referred to in paragraph 1 shall be 150 ECU per hectare afforested per year

The above amount shall be reduced to 50 ECU per hectare if, and for as long as, aid under Title 1 or Title 2 is granted for the same land

- 3 The Member States shall fix the amount of the annual premium in the light of the income lost and the species or types of trees with which the land is afforested

Article 20c

- 1 The Member States shall lay down the conditions governing afforestation of agricultural land, including the location of land that may be afforested, the species or types of tree, silvicultural systems, tree spacing, rotation periods envisaged and the minimum and maximum areas which may be afforested They shall subject projects for the afforestation of contiguous blocks of more than 100 hectares to an environmental impact assessment as provided for in Council Directive 85/337/EEC
- 2 The communication of provisions implementing this Title under Article 24 shall include
 - the accompanying measures taken or planned, such as training, advisory work and the encouragement of forestry groups,
 - a description of the forestry plans or programmes with which afforestation is to comply, including, where appropriate, local forestry management plans "

3 In Article 26

a) in paragraph 2

1) the first sentence is amended to read as follows

"The Fund shall reimburse 25% of eligible expenditure on the measures provided for in Articles 1b, 3 to 7, 13 to 17 and 19 to 20b to Member States "

11) the third indent is amended to read as follows

"- 50% in the case of the aid provided for in Articles 14, 17 and 20b and concerning Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and the French overseas departments "

b) In paragraph 4, the figure "20b" is added after the figure "17"

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States

FINANCIAL STATEMENT concerning Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures, as regards the afforestation of agricultural land

1. Budget heading IIIB Item 301 Title EAGGF, Guidance Section, Structural policies

2. Legal basis Articles 42 and 43 of the Treaty

3. Classification ~~Compulsory expenditure/Non-compulsory expenditure~~ in accordance with the classification of similar measures at present provided for under Reg 797/85

4. Purpose/description of the measure To reinforce action in the forestry sector under Reg 797/85 (agricultural holdings) Introduction of subsidies for production of cork and annual premiums for afforestation of agricultural land

5. Method of calculation

5.1 Form of expenditure

5.2 Community contribution Reimbursement of a part of eligible national expenditure

5.3 Calculation 25% or 50% of eligible expenditure

Reimbursements in	C o r k		A f f o r e s t a t i o n		
	Investments	Premiums	Investments	Premiums	Total
1990	0 5	0 0	8 2	0 6	9.3
1991	0 9	0 1	16.3	2 0	19.3
1992	1 3	0 2	24 5	4 0	30.0
1993	1 7	0.4	32 7	6.6	41.4

6. Financial implication as regards operating appropriations

6.1 Schedule of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations (in ECU)

Year	C.A.	P.A.
1989	p.m	p.m
1990	9 3	9 3
1991	19 3	19.3
1992	30 0	30.0
1993	<u>41.4</u>	<u>41.4</u>
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

6.2 Financing during current year

7. Observations. The total estimated cost of the common measures provided for under Reg 797/85 does not need to be changed for the periode 1985 to 1989. The cost of the amendments concerned will be included under the following period

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No _____

laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No /88
as regards the scheme to develop and optimally utilise woodlands
in rural areas in the Community

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and
in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (3),

Whereas the eleventh indent of Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No /88 laying
down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the
Guidance Section of the EAGGF provides for the adoption by the Council of
specific provisions concerning the scheme to develop and utilise woodlands in
the areas in which objectives 1 and 5(b) as listed in Article 1 of Regulation
(EEC) No 2052/88 apply,

(1) OJ No C ,
(2) OJ No C ,
(3) OJ No C ,

Whereas full participation in regional planning and promotion of the future of rural society in the Community requires that there be envisaged a broad and systematic contribution by the forestry sector as a whole to the development of rural areas, and specifically those concerned by the reform of the common agricultural policy,

Whereas at present, given the serious crisis which agriculture is undergoing, involving some land until now being farmed to be taken out of cultivation, forestry and related activities provide an alternative in a number of rural areas where basic readjustments will have to be made,

Whereas at the same time the contribution of woodland to improving the environment must be increased, by encouraging the development of healthy forest ecosystems which will effectively protect soil fertility, fauna, flora and water resources,

Whereas in regions of the Community particularly at risk from soil erosion and flooding, and especially in catchment areas above the latter, steps should be taken, in order to reduce the frequency and extent of the natural disasters which threaten the environment and hinder regional development, to restore and develop woodlands by laying particular emphasis on their protective function,

Whereas the forestry sector should therefore be endowed with its own dynamism, enabling it to perform all its essential functions,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Article 1

The Community's financial contribution towards the scheme to develop and optimally utilise woodlands referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No /88 may cover

- the creation and improvement of nurseries,
- the afforestation of agricultural or waste land, specifically where there is a danger of erosion,
- the extension and restoration of woodlands in areas at risk from soil erosion and flooding, and especially in catchment areas above the latter,
- the reconstitution of woodland damaged by fires or other natural causes,
- the improvement and revitalization of woodland damaged by atmospheric pollution,
- related work, including cleaning and first thinning and the rationalisation of woodland,
- other complementary measures, including measures to prevent and combat forest fires, but not measures receiving aid under Council Regulation No 3529/86 on the protection of the Community's forests against fire,
- the creation and improvement of such forest infrastructures as roads, including the connection of woodland with outside transport networks,
- start-up aid as a contribution to the management expenditure of associations of persons exploiting woodland, set up in order to help them improve the economic conditions in which their timber is produced, extracted and marketed,
- forestry awareness campaigns and advisory services

Article 2

Priority shall be given to operational forestry programmes in areas where

- the conservation and protection of the environment, including soil and water conservation and measures to combat erosion, play a major role both generally and with regard to agriculture,
- the promotion of silviculture may help in improving the economy of the area concerned and thus in developing activities which will generate employment providing the possibility of multiple employment or alternative income for those engaged in agriculture,
- the social and recreational function of the woodland is particularly important, specifically with a view to the development of tourism and recreational areas for the local population

Article 3

1 Operational programmes shall include in addition to the particulars referred to in Article 14 of Regulation (EEC) No /88 (2) the following particulars

- a description of the existing forestry situation, and especially that of woodland resources, including a description of the natural dangers which might affect the woodland, such as windthrow, fire, drought, disease, atmospheric pollution etc , together with a breakdown by type of owner of the land to be afforested,
- a description of the aims to be achieved and an indication of priorities,

(2) Regulation (EEC) No /88 laying down provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination

- a description of any preliminary measures envisaged, such as the collecting of information and appropriate preparatory work,
 - the different forestry measures to be taken under a programme
 - the conditions with which measures must comply, including
 - the species or types of tree,
 - silvicultural systems, tree spacing and length of rotation,
 - the minimum and maximum areas to be afforested,
 - ~~local~~ woodland management plans,
 - the back-up measures envisaged, especially those concerning the promotion and operation of forestry associations and forestry advisory services,
 - existing or expected markets for the forestry products which will result from the new investments,
 - any other information which the Commission considers necessary for assessing the programme
- 2 Implementaiton of any measures as provided for in Article 20 of Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 in a rural area for which there is to be an operational forestry programme must be incorporated in that programme In that event the ceilings laid down in the Article referred to above may be amended in the decision referred to in Article 5(4)

Article 4

The Commission shall adopt the detailed rules necessary for implementing this Regulation

Article 5

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States

FINANCIAL STATEMENT concerning a proposal for a Council Regulation introducing a common measure to develop and utilize woodlands in rural areas in the Community

1. Budget heading III B Item 301 Title EAGGF, Guidance Section Structural policies

2. Legal basis Articles 42 and 43 of the Treaty

3. Classification ~~Compulsory expenditure~~/Non-compulsory expenditure, financing by programmes, to be decided by the Commission depending on appropriations in the budget

4. Purpose/description of the measure Community financial support to forestry programmes, in order to contribute to the development of the endogenous economy of rural areas Conservation and protection of the environment in rural areas

5. Method of calculation
 5.1 Form of expenditure Financial contribution to cost of approved programmes
 5.2 Community contribution Between 25 and 50% of eligible costs
 5.3 Calculation The estimates for commitment appropriations, put forward by way of indication, are based on the hypothesis that about 20% of future expenditure on rural development will be for forestry projects. As regards payment commitments, the timescale below assumes that programmes will last two or three years and advances will be paid as the work progresses (20%, 40%, 40%)

6. Financial implication as regards operating appropriations
 6.1 Schedule of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations (in ECU)

<u>Year</u>	<u>C.A.</u>	<u>P.A.</u>
19 89	p.m.	p.m.
19 90	25	5
19 91	40	18
19 92	70	40
19 93	p.m.	44
following years	p.m.	<u>28</u>
Total	<u>135</u>	<u>135</u>

6.2 Financing during current year

7. Observations Timescale for payments, in million ECU

<u>Commitments</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Subsequent years</u>
1990	25	5	10	10	-
1991	40	-	8	16	-
1992	<u>70</u>	-	-	<u>14</u>	<u>28</u>
Total	135	5	18	44	28

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No

concerning application of Article 7 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77
to the cork sector

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 of 15 February 1977 on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural and fishery products are processed and marketed (1), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1760/87 (2), and in particular Article 7(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (3),

Whereas the expansion of cork-oak growing and of the cork sector may help in improving agricultural structures, especially in certain Mediterranean regions of the Community,

Whereas the measures provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 currently concern only those cork products which are listed in Annex II to the Treaty, that is those falling within heading 45 01 of the Common Customs Tariff, and whereas they should therefore be extended to include processed cork products falling within headings 45 02, 45 03 en 45 04 of the Common Customs Tariff, in order that the expansion of the cork sector may have the desired effects in improving the situation of agriculture,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Article 1

The projects referred to in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 may also concern processed products falling within headings 45 02, 45 03 and 45 04 of the Common Customs Tariff

(1) OJ L 51, 23 02 1977, p 1
(2) OJ L 167, 26 06 1987, p 1
(3) PB L

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,

The President

FINANCIAL STATEMENT concerning

- (1) a proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural and fishery products are processed and marketed
- (2) a proposal for a Council Regulation concerning application of Article 7 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 to the cork sector

1. Budget heading III B Item 301 Title EAGGF, Guidance Section, Structural policies

2. Legal basis Article 43 of the Treaty

3. Classification *Обязательная и не обязательная* / Non-compulsory expenditure

4. Purpose/description of the measure To extend the scope of Reg. 355/77 to include forestry and cork products

5. Method of calculation

5.1 Form of expenditure Capital grants

5.2 Community contribution Between 25 and 30%

5.3 Calculation The amendment does not automatically involve further expenditure. Appropriations available for all measures covered by Reg. 355/77 are written into the annual budgets

6. Financial implication as regards operating appropriations

6.1 Schedule of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations (in ECU)

<u>Year</u>	<u>C.A.</u>	<u>P.A.</u>
1989	p.m.	p.m.
1990	p.m.	p.m.
1991	p.m.	p.m.
1992	p.m.	p.m.
1993	p.m.	p.m.
following years	p.m.	p.m.
Total	<u>p.m.</u>	<u>p.m.</u>

6.2 Financing during current year

7. Observations There should be no change in the estimated cost of the common measures provided for under Reg. 355/77

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No

amending Regulation (EEC) No 355/77
on common measures to improve the conditions under which
agricultural and fishery products are processed and marketed

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and
in particular Articles 42 and 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (3),

Whereas the development of the forestry sector and the utilization of wood-
land on agricultural holdings may contribute to the development of the
Community's rural areas and to decreasing output of agricultural products
which are in surplus,

Whereas the measures provided for in Article 20 of Council Regulation (EEC)
No 797/85 of 12 March 1985 on improving the efficiency of agricultural
structures (4), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No (5), and in
Regulation (EEC) No introducing a common measure for the development and
the utilisation of woodland in rural areas of the Community (6) can produce
the desired effects only if a Community contribution to the development of the
forestry sector as a whole is possible,

(1) OJ L

(2) OJ L

(3) OJ L

(4) OJ L 93, 30 03 1985, p 1

(5) OJ L

(6) OJ L

Whereas it is appropriate to extend the actions foreseen in Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 of 15 February 1977 (7), as most recently amended by Council Regulation (EEC) No 1760/87 (8), to the marketing and processing of forestry products,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 is modified follows

1 To Article 1, the first paragraph is replaced by the following text

"1 In order to improve the market structure of agricultural products and in particular to facilitate adaptations or adjustments to agriculture, made necessary by the economic consequences of the common agricultural policy or replying to its needs, and in order that a development of the forestry sector may contribute to the improvement of agricultural structures, notably in rural areas of the Community, a common action is initiated to allow the development or the rationalisation of enterprises which deal with the treatment, processing or marketing of agricultural or forestry products

2 Article 2 is replaced by the following text

"Specific programmes, hereafter called "programmes", seeking to develop or rationalise the treatment, processing or marketing of one or several agricultural, forestry or fishery products in one part or over all the Community, and likewise in particular those products destined for new outlets or new technologies They are to be drawn up by the Member States "

3 In Article 7, the first paragraph is replaced by the following text

" The projects concerning the marketing of products listed in Annex II of the Treaty or the production of processed products figuring in the said Annex, as well as the marketing and the primary processing of forestry products "

(7) OJ L 51, 23 02 1977, p 1

(8) OJ L 167, 26 06 1987, p 1

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,

The President

FINANCIAL STATEMENT concerning

- (1) a proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural and fishery products are processed and marketed
- (2) a proposal for a Council Regulation concerning application of Article 7 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 to the cork sector

1. Budget heading III B Item 301 Title EAGGF, Guidance Section, Agricultural Policies

2. Legal basis Article 43 of the Treaty

3. Classification ~~Compulsory expenditure~~/Non-compulsory expenditure

4. Purpose/description of the measure To extend the scope of Reg 355/77 to include forestry and cork products

5. Method of calculation

- 5.1 Form of expenditure Capital grants
- 5.2 Community contribution Between 25 and 30%
- 5.3 Calculation The amendment does not automatically involve further expenditure. Appropriations available for all measures covered by Reg 355/77 are written into the annual budgets

6. Financial implication as regards operating appropriations

6.1 Schedule of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations (in ECU)

Year	C.A.	P.A.
1989	p.m.	p.m.
1990	p.m.	p.m.
1991	p.m.	p.m.
1992	p.m.	p.m.
1993	p.m.	p.m.
following years	p.m.	p.m.
Total	<u>p.m.</u>	<u>p.m.</u>

6.2 Financing during current year

7. Observations There should be no change in the estimated cost of the common measures provided for under Reg 355/77

DRAFT
COUNCIL DECISION

setting up a Standing Forestry Committee

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Whereas the Community's woodlands are subject to a number of threats which jeopardize the fulfilment of their economic, environmental and social functions,

(1) OJ No L
(2) OJ No C

Whereas there is in the Community a considerable imbalance between production of and demand for forestry products,

Whereas efforts to improve production structures should be stimulated by promoting coordination at Community level of Member States' forestry policies,

Whereas the rules governing the operation of the common market and the various Community policies affecting the forestry sector and that coordination of forestry policies would enable them to be brought into line with Community policies and objectives,

Whereas such coordination may be facilitated by close and constant cooperation between the Member States and the Commission, whereas the most effective way of achieving such cooperation is within a Standing Forestry Committee, whereas such a committee should be made up of representatives of each of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission,

Whereas coordination of forestry policies requires that the laws, regulations and administrative provisions in force in the Member States be known,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS

Article 1

A Standing Forestry Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee" is hereby set up

Article 2

- 1 It shall be the task of the Committee to examine the Member States' forestry policies and measures and programmes relating thereto, in the light of any Community provisions concerning the forestry sector and of the relationships between that sector and Community policies

- 2 The Member States shall keep each other and the Commission informed, within the Committee, of the forestry situation and of forestry policies in the Member States

- 3 The Commission may consult the Committee on any aspect of forestry policy and on any other matters concerning the forestry sector

- 4 The Committee shall carry out any other tasks entrusted to it by the Council on a proposal from the Commission

Article 3

The Committee shall be made up of representatives of each of the Member States It shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission

Secretarial services for the Committee shall be provided by the Commission

The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States

Done at Brussels,

1988

FINANCIAL STATEMENT concerning a draft Council Decision setting up a Standing Forestry Committee

1. Budget heading III a Item 2510 Title Expenditure on meetings of committees consultation of which is compulsory in the procedure for drafting Community legislation

2. Legal basis The Treaty

3. Classification ~~Compulsory expenditure~~/Non-compulsory expenditure

4. Purpose/description of the measure To set up a Standing Forestry Committee

5. Method of calculation

5.1 Form of expenditure Costs of meetings

5.2 Community contribution

5.3 Calculation The Committee will replace existing committees and groups, and specifically the Committee for Forest Protection (Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) 3528/86) and COFOR (Group of forestry service heads)

6. Financial implication as regards operating appropriations

6.1 Schedule of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations (in CU)

Year	CND
1989	p.m.
1990	p.m.
1991	p.m.
1992	p.m.
1993	p.m.
following years	<u>p.m.</u>
Total	p.m.

6.2 Financing during current year .

7. Observations The financial effect of the proposal is zero, in that expenditure on meetings of the two committees to be replaced by the Standing Forestry Committee was already charged to the same budget heading (A 25) and the likely new expenditure will not be higher.

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No _____

amending Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86
on the protection of the Community's forests against atmospheric pollution

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and in particular Articles 42 and 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (3),

Whereas forest decline is persisting in many parts of the Community, and whereas the Community scheme provided for in Council Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 of 17 November 1986 (4) should therefore be reinforced,

Whereas one of the reasons why forests in the Community are declining and dying back is an imbalance of nutritive elements in the soil, caused by acid deposition in particular and atmospheric pollution in general

Whereas in order to help stem the die-back of forests, Member States should be helped to take measures to maintain and restore them, aimed at re-establishing favourable soil conditions in forest stands where they have deteriorated, in particular through acid deposition,

(1) OJ

(2) OJ

(3) OJ

(4) OJ L 326, 21 11 1986, p 2

Whereas a Standing Forestry Committee has been set up by Article of Council Decision of , whereas that Committee should be granted the powers of the Committee on Forest Protection as provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86,

Whereas information obtained in the Member States on atmospheric pollution of forests and its effects, on methods of evaluating damage and on measures to maintain and restore damaged forests should be coordinated and centralized, in order to avoid duplication of effort and of financing,

Whereas the Community's financial contribution to the measures involved should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 is hereby amended as follows

1 In Article 4(1) the following indent is added

"- projects to maintain and restore damaged forests "

2 The following is inserted after Article 4

"Article 4b

1 A programme is hereby introduced for the collection, coordination and standardization of information on the health status of woodlands in the Community and on knowledge of atmospheric pollution in woodland and its effects

2 In drawing up and implementing this programme the Commission may call on specialized institutes

3 The programme shall be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 8 "

3 Article 6 is repealed

4 Article 7(1) is amended as follows

"1 Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be followed, the matter shall be referred to the Standing Forestry Committee, hereinafter called "the Committee", by the Chairman, either on his own initiative or at the request of the representative of a Member State "

5 Article 10 is repealed

6 In Article 11(2) "10 million ECU" is replaced by "19 million ECU"

7 Article 12(2) is replaced by the following

"2 projects, experiments, pilot and demonstration projects (Article 4) maximum of 30% of the expenditure approved by the Commission "

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,

The President

FINANCIAL STATEMENT concerning

- (1) a proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 on the protection of the Community's forests against atmospheric pollution
- (2) a proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86 on the protection of the Community's forests against fire

1. Budget heading III B Item 387 Title Forestry

2. Legal basis Article 43 of the Treaty

3. Classification ~~Средства на нецелевые расходы~~ Non-compulsory expenditure

4. Purpose/description of the measure To reinforce the measures to protect forests provided for in the two regulations

5. Method of calculation

5.1 Form of expenditure Financial contribution to projects and programmes financing of coordination.

5.2 Community contribution Up to 30% of the cost of projects and programmes

5.3 Calculation The following further action is proposed (in million ECU)

Commitments in	Fire	Pollution	Total
1989	1.5	1	2.5
1990	5	3	8
1991	5	3	8
Total	11.5	7	18.5

6. Financial implication as regards operating appropriations

6.1 Schedule of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations (in ECU)

Year	C.A.	P.A.
1989	2.5	0.5
1990	8	4.5
1991	8	7.5
1992	p.m	4.0
1993	p.m	1.5
following years	p.m	0.5
Total	18.5	18.5

6.2 Financing during current year

7. Observations Timescale of payments in million ECU

Commitments	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Subsequent years
1989 2.5	0.5	1	1	-	-	-
1990 8	-	3.5	3	1	0.5	-
1991 8	-	-	3.5	3	1	0.5
Total 18.5	0.5	4.5	7.5	4	1.5	0.5

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No _____

amending Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86
on protection of the Community's forests against fire

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (3),

Whereas, despite the existence of prevention measures, forest fires each year affect 500 000 hectares of woodland, especially in the southern part of the Community, and whereas it is therefore necessary for those preventive measures, introduced by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86 of 17 November 1986 (4), to be supplemented by such appropriate measures to combat fire as are a logical complement thereto,

Whereas experiments with new techniques and technologies and new equipment and products will enable the results of measures to combat forest fires to be improved,

Whereas if measures to combat forest fires are to be effective they must be executed by personnel having undergone appropriate training,

Whereas appropriate knowledge must be disseminated among the Member States as a whole and whereas the Commission should monitor and coordinate measures to increase the degree of protection of forests in the Community,

Whereas a Standing Forestry Committee has been set up by Article _____ of Council Decision _____ of _____

(1) OJ

(2) OJ

(3) OJ

(4) OJ L 326, 21 11 1986, p 5

whereas that Committee should be granted the powers of the Committee on Forest Protection as provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 3529/88,

Whereas the Community's financial contribution to the measures involved should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No3529/86 is hereby amended as follows

1 The following is added after Article 2

"Article 2b

The scheme shall also cover measures to encourage pilot projects and experiments in new techniques and technologies, and the development of equipment and products which may increase the effectiveness of measures to combat fires"

2 Article 4(1) is amended as follows

1) in paragraph 1 the first part of the sentence is amended as follows

"The Standing Forestry Committee shall be consulted, within the meaning of Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86",

11) in paragraph 2 the words "within the meaning of Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86" are deleted

3 The following is added after Article 4

"Article 4b

The Commission shall coordinate and monitor measures taken for the protection of forests against fire It may in particular have recourse to research institutes and scientific and technical advisers For that purpose it may organize

- simulation exercises and field demonstrations,
- international meetings and symposia,
- study and information missions,
- exchange of research workers and technicians,
- the dissemination of knowledge "

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,

The President

FINANCIAL STATEMENT concerning

- (1) a proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3528/85 on the protection of the Community's forests against atmospheric pollution
- (2) a proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3729/85 on the protection of the Community's forests against fire

1. Budget heading III B Item 387 Title Forestry

2. Legal basis Article 43 of the Treaty

3. Classification ~~Обязательная трата~~ Non-compulsory expenditure

4. Purpose/description of the measure To reinforce the measures to protect forests provided for in the two regulations

5. Method of calculation

5.1 Form of expenditure. Financial contribution to projects and programmes
Financing of coordination

5.2 Community contribution Up to 30% of the cost of projects and programmes

5.3 Calculation The following further action is proposed (in million ECU)

<u>Commitments in</u>	<u>Fire</u>	<u>Pollution</u>	<u>Total</u>
1989	2.5	1	2.5
1990	5	3	8
1991	5	3	8
Total	11.5	7	18.5

6. Financial implication as regards operating appropriations

6.1 Schedule of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations (in ECU)

<u>Year</u>	<u>C.A.</u>	<u>P.A.</u>
1989	2.5	0.5
1990	8	4.5
1991	8	7.5
1992	p.m.	4.0
1993	p.m.	1.5
following years	<u>p.m.</u>	<u>0.5</u>
Total	18.5	18.5

6.2 Financing during current year

7. Observations. Timescale of payments in million ECU

<u>Commitments</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Subsequent years</u>
1989	2.5	0.5	1	-	-	-
1990	8	-	3.5	1	0.5	-
1991	8	-	-	3	1	0.5
Total	18.5	0.5	4.5	4	1.5	0.5

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No

establishing a European Forestry
Information and Communication System (EFICS) (1)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and
in particular Articles 42 and 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (2),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (3),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (4),

Whereas the implementation and development of the Community's strategy and the
application of its action programme for the forestry sector which are the
subject of Council Regulations and Decision (EEC) / (5) call for
consistent and comparable information on the situation and progress of
forestry in the Community,

(1) The English abbreviation is to be used

(2) OJ

(3) OJ

(4) OJ

(5) OJ

Whereas a number of effective information systems exist already in some Member States and steps should be taken to supplement them and make them comparable, whereas to that end there should be an appropriate system for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of the information,

Whereas in addition to meeting the Community's requirements the system should improve the transparency of the forestry sector at all levels,

Whereas implementation of the scheme calls for close cooperation between the Commission and the Member States,

Whereas the system to be established should be consistent with and complementary to existing Commission information systems,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Article 1

In order to collect and disseminate comparable and objective information on the structure and operation of the forestry sector in the Community, and thus facilitate the development and implementation of the Community's forestry strategy and the application of the forestry provisions in force, in particular the forestry action programme which is the subject of Council Regulations and Decision (EEC) / (3), a "European forestry information and communication system" (EFICS) (2), hereinafter called "the system" is hereby set up

Article 2

The system shall make use firstly of information available to the Commission and in the Member States, notably that contained in national forestry inventories, and of data bases accessible at Community and international level

(2) The English abbreviation is retained throughout the other language versions

(3) OJ

Individual items of information collected by the system shall be protected by statistical secrecy. The Commission shall adopt all the provisions necessary to this effect.

The Commission shall set up and develop the system with the assistance of the Member States, in particular within the framework of the Standing Forestry Committee, during an initial four-year period beginning on 1 January 1989 and ending on 31 December 1992.

Article 3

The Commission shall adopt detailed rules for implementing this Regulation after consulting the Standing Forestry Committee set up by Council Decision /88.

Article 4

The total estimated cost of establishing and operating the system during the development period (1989-92) shall be 3 9 million ECU.

Article 5

The Commission shall report to the Council, before 31 December 1992, on the implementation of the system and the initial results obtained. In the light of that report it shall, where necessary, make proposals to the Council on the organisation and operation of the system for the period 1993-98.

Article 6

This Regulation is addressed to the Member States. It shall enter into force the third day after its publication in the Official Journal of the Communities.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,

The President

FINANCIAL STATEMENT concerning a proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a European Forestry Information and Communication System (EFICS)

1. Budget heading III B Item 387 Title Forestry

2. Legal basis Article 43 of the Treaty

3 Classification ~~Compulsory expenditure~~/Non-compulsory expenditure

4. Purpose/description of the measure To establish an information system for forestry

5 Method of calculation

5.1 Form of expenditure Contractual expenditure

5.2 Community contribution 100% of the establishment and central management costs of the system

5.3 Calculation Estimate given for guidance

6. Financial implication as regards operating appropriations

6.1 Schedule of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations (m ECU)

<u>Year</u>	<u>NDA</u>
19 89	<u>0.5</u>
19 90	1.0
19 91	1.2
19 92	1 2
19 93	p m.

Total 3.9

6.2 Financing during current year

7. Observations