European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COSTANZO, Mr KAZAZIS, Mr BARBAGLI, Mr STELLA, Mr GIUMMARRA, Mr COLLESELLI, Mr MODIANO, Mr DIANA, Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI, Mr LIGIOS and Mr ZECCHINO

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on specific Community action for the protection, enlargement and preservation of the forestry resources of the Mediterranean regions

The European Parliament,

- A. Recalling earlier debates and votes of the European Parliament on the need for an increased political and financial commitment on the part of the EEC in the forestry sector,
- B. Considering the poor results obtained in this respect by means of the measures adopted so far by the Community under the Regional Fund, the directives for the reform of agricultural structures and the regulations forming part of what is known as the 'Mediterranean package',
- Considering that the benefits and products obtained from forests (healthy natural surroundings, water supplies, soil stability, wood and raw material for the manufacture of paper, etc.) are tending to become increasingly scarce, which should be a cause for concern to all countries of the Community and not only to the regions which are structurally more arid and have less forest.
- D. Considering that, especially in the southern regions of the EEC, forestry resources are clearly completely insufficient to meet ecological, hydrogeological and production needs,
- E. Considering that the limited forestry resources of these southern regions are the most exposed to and least protected against the destructive effects of fires,
- F. Considering, finally, that, above all in the mountain and hill areas of less-favoured regions, work on fire prevention, on increasing the areas covered by forest, on the care and maintenance of the undergrowth and on hydraulic and hydrogeological installations in forests may represent an important source of employment for the local population,

1. Calls on the European Commission:

→ To submit as soon as possible a report to Parliament on the results obtained so far by means of Community measures in the forestry sector,

- To draw up a proposal for specific Community action, to be financed by the various structural funds (Regional Fund, EAGGF, Social Fund) supplemented as appropriate by special funds, so as to launch in the southern regions of the Community, a series of multi-annual aid programmes designed to deal, in conjunction with the Member States and the regional authorities, with all the problems connected with forestry as a whole, with the aim of increasing the productive and protective function of woods and forests and of creating new and permanent sources of employment for the local populations;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council of the European Communities and the Governments of the Member States.