


Procedure file

Basic information		
SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)	1993/0500(SYN)	Procedure completed
Protection of natural resources: promotion of tropical forests, Community action		
Subject 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity 6.30 Development cooperation		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development and Cooperation	PSE VAN PUTTEN Maartje J.A.	26/07/1994
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Development	1897	20/12/1995
	General Affairs	1825	23/01/1995
	Development	1805	25/11/1994

Key events			
26/02/1993	Legislative proposal published	COM(1993)0053	Summary
19/04/1993	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/10/1993	Vote in committee		Summary
13/10/1993	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A3-0304/1993	
29/10/1993	Debate in Parliament		Summary
29/10/1993	Decision by Parliament	T3-0604/1993	Summary
10/06/1994	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1994)0153	Summary
23/01/1995	Council position published	12006/1/1994	Summary
15/03/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
31/05/1995	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
31/05/1995	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0137/1995	

14/06/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
15/06/1995	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0294/1995	Summary
05/09/1995	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0408	
20/12/1995	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
20/12/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/12/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1993/0500(SYN)
Procedure type	SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 130S-p1; EC before Amsterdam E 130W
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/4/06391

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(1993)0053 OJ C 078 19.03.1993, p. 0008	26/02/1993	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0707/1993 OJ C 249 13.09.1993, p. 0003	30/06/1993	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A3-0304/1993 OJ C 315 22.11.1993, p. 0004	13/10/1993	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T3-0604/1993 OJ C 315 22.11.1993, p. 0625-0644	29/10/1993	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1994)0153 OJ C 201 23.07.1994, p. 0015	10/06/1994	EC	Summary
Council position	12006/1/1994 OJ C 160 26.06.1995, p. 0001	23/01/1995	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1995)0369	09/03/1995	EC	
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0137/1995 OJ C 166 03.07.1995, p. 0005	31/05/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0294/1995 OJ C 166 03.07.1995, p. 0080-0098	15/06/1995	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1995)0408	05/09/1995	EC	

Final act

[Regulation 1995/3062](#)
[OJ L 327 30.12.1995, p. 0009](#) Summary

The proposal for a regulation defined the objectives and procedures of a Community initiative designed to contribute to the conservation of tropical forestry resources. The Community would provide financial and technical support for activities (studies, field projects, publications, films and seminars) intended to encourage developing countries and their regional organisations to conserve tropical forests. The following were to be priority objectives: - safeguarding forestry resources (analysing the causes of deforestation and initiating activities with the aim of slowing down the rate of deforestation); - sustainable management of designated forests for the production of timber and other products; - involving local populations in the preparation and implementation of the activities to be financed in the framework of the Community initiative; - creating infrastructure to satisfy the need for training, research, legislation and the reinforcement of institutions dedicated to the conservation of forestry resources. The Commission would submit an annual report to the Council and the European Parliament. ?

Protection of natural resources: promotion of tropical forests, Community action

\$summary.text

Protection of natural resources: promotion of tropical forests, Community action

The rapporteur, Mrs Van Putten, called on the Community to take any measures or initiatives within its power for the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests and to encourage the efforts of developing countries, in cooperation with local authorities, to conserve their tropical forests in the context of the sustainable development of those regions. Sustainable forest management was understood as the planned utilisation of forests in a manner compatible with the conservation of forest eco-systems for present and future generations and without undesirable effects on the physical and social environment. She stressed participation by local populations and called for the creation of buffer zones to assist the conservation and regeneration of biological diversity in tropical forests. She called for a sustainable exploitation of timber and other forest products. With regard to the regulation of international trade, the rapporteur called on the Community: - with effect from 1995, to secure within the ITTO the limitation of trade to timber produced by sustainable means; if no decisions had been reached internationally, to introduce an eco-label for sustainably produced timber; - to support the developing countries during the process of switching to sustainable forest management by providing compensation for loss of revenue, providing financial and technical support, and by creating an eco-label for timber and timber products. She hoped for the creation within the Commission of a new Tropical Forest Unit and called for assistance to be given to activities which promoted the establishment of a worldwide convention on the protection of forests.

Protection of natural resources: promotion of tropical forests, Community action

\$summary.text

Protection of natural resources: promotion of tropical forests, Community action

Adopting the report by Mrs Van Putten, Parliament approved the regulation, but it hoped that the Commission would shortly present proposals for a coherent policy from a global perspective, affording particular attention to the regulation and monitoring of timber imports. As far as trade regulation was concerned, Parliament proposed that the Community: - endeavour to secure by 1995, within the ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organisation) the limitation of international trade to timber 'produced by sustainable means'; - if no decisions had been reached internationally, to introduce, from 1995, an eco-label for sustainably produced timber; - to take measures to support the gradual and flexible process of switching to sustainable forest management. The activities carried out in developing countries had to be evaluated with the local people involved, be preceded by reports on their ecological, social and cultural aspects and must not cooperate in the removal of timber from primary tropical forests. Parliament advocated the creation within the European Commission of a new Tropical Forest Unit. ?

Protection of natural resources: promotion of tropical forests, Community action

The amended proposal takes account of most of the amendments of the European Parliament. These amendments deal mainly with the biodiversity of tropical forests and safeguarding ecosystems and with the need to take better account of local dimensions and the need for the local people to be actively involved. A number of amendments relating to Commission structures and powers were rejected.?

Protection of natural resources: promotion of tropical forests, Community action

The common position retains the basics of the Commission proposal and incorporates almost all Parliament's amendments included by the Commission in its amended proposal. However, the Council was unable to agree with the Commission on the following points: - the Council set an initial period of three years (1995-1997), with the facility for an extension in the light of an overall evaluation, to be carried out by the end of 1997; - for reasons of efficiency and coherence with other projects in the same region, the Council decided to make the ALA committee and the EDF committee responsible for giving an opinion on the projects proposed, using the IIIa (regulatory) committee procedure; - the Council inserted a reference to the amounts deemed necessary (ADN) for these projects: ECU 50 million per annum, which corresponds to the figures actually entered by the budgetary authority in previous years.?

Protection of natural resources: promotion of tropical forests, Community action

Adopting the report by Mrs Maartje VAN PUTTEN (PSE, NL), the committee called for the adoption of measures to conserve tropical forests, trade regulations and controls on Community imports of wood and wood-based products. It called for the regulation to encourage developing countries to conserve and manage tropical forests to last five rather than three years. It also called for aid to be set at ECU 150 million for the first three years (1995-1997) and for at least 60% of appropriations to be earmarked for projects to conserve tropical forests supported by the local people or geared to sustainable forest management with assistance from the local authorities. The appropriations allocated by the Community would take the form of non-refundable aid. Community aid should be allocated primarily to: - conserving primary tropical forests and their biodiversity and renewing damaged tropical forests, the objective being to provide full protection for at least 10% of ecologically representative primary forest in each country and for compensation to be paid to these countries in order to protect these regions; - sustainable management of forests designated for the production of timber; - the development and implementation of an independent assessment system which guarantees the reliability of the procedures and the quality of the criteria underlying certificates issued on the market; - the introduction of a monitoring system which guarantees the authenticity of certificates issued during transportation and marketing within the Union; - the provision of prior information to forest peoples, followed by their support in identifying, planning and implementing projects; - the development and implementation of forest management plans which also promote other wood products, mainly from forests other than primary forests; - aid for projects to promote a world convention on forest conservation; - the development of buffer zones to assist the conservation or regeneration of tropical forests. Annual reports summarizing the quality and quantity of projects funded should be submitted to the European Parliament.?

Protection of natural resources: promotion of tropical forests, Community action

Mr KINNOCK considered that the "tropical forests" budget line, established at the initiative of the EP, had become an important instrument of forest policy; spending under this line was used for the partnership with national parks and certification procedures. He also believed that the need to protect all forests had finally been recognised. As regards the EP's amendments, the Commissioner accepted the amendments that strengthened the budget line in question: Amendments Nos 6, 7, 9, 25 and 31. However, he opposed the amendments calling for the unilateral recognition of the tropical wood market, as these contradicted the trade agreements. He supported the principle of voluntary certification, but felt that it was not appropriate to establish such a system at EU level before the publication of the results of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. He therefore rejected Amendments Nos 5, 16, 35 and 36. Finally, the Commission supported the amendments aimed at increasing the number of experts, but it considered that it could itself determine the arrangements for the referral to, and operation of, the groups of experts; Amendments Nos 4, 14, 19 and 23 were rejected.

Protection of natural resources: promotion of tropical forests, Community action

Amending the Council's common position, the European Parliament called for the adoption of measures to support the conservation of tropical forests and trade rules and controls on Community imports of wood and wood-based products. The European Parliament called for aid totaling ECU 250 million for an initial five-year period (1995-1999), with the possibility of an extension following an overall assessment of the results. At least 60% of the appropriations would be earmarked for projects to conserve tropical forests supported by the local populace or geared to sustainable forest management with assistance from the local authorities. Community aid should be allocated primarily to: - conserving primary tropical forests and their biodiversity and renewing damaged tropical forests, the objective being to provide full protection for at least 10% of ecologically representative primary forest in each country and for compensation to be paid to these countries in order to protect these regions; - sustainable management of forests designated for the production of timber; - the implementation, by 1997, of an independent assessment system which guarantees the reliability of the procedures and the quality of the criteria underlying certificates issued on the market and the introduction of a monitoring system which guarantees the authenticity of certificates issued during transportation and marketing within the Union; - the provision of prior information to forest peoples, followed by their support in identifying, planning and implementing projects; - the development and implementation of forest management plans which also promote other wood products, mainly from forests other than primary forests; - aid for projects to promote a world convention on forest conservation; Annual reports summarizing the quality and quantity of projects funded should be submitted to the European Parliament committees. The European Parliament also called for: - a uniform position to be maintained during when discussing and planning forest conservation policy at international level; - the Commission to quickly present proposals to promote a coherent policy with a worldwide outlook; - a "forests" unit to be set up within the Commission.?

Protection of natural resources: promotion of tropical forests, Community action

OBJECTIVE: Laying down the objectives and rules for implementation of a Community operation in support of the conservation of tropical forest resources. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation (EC) No 3062/95 on operations to promote tropical forests. SUBSTANCE: The Community will provide financial support (non refundable aid) or technical expertise for operations which encourage the efforts of developing countries and their regional organizations to conserve the tropical forests (studies, land projects, publications, films, seminars). - The financial reference amount for the implementation of the programme is ECU 200 m for a period of four years (1996-1999); - Priority will be given to operations aimed at promoting: .conservation of primary tropical forests and their biodiversity (analysis of the causes of deforestation and operations to slow deforestation); .sustainable management of forests designated for the production of timber and other products; .provision of prior information to forest peoples, followed by their support for the identification and planning of action to be funded; .capacity-building to address the needs for training, research, legislation and strengthening institutions which seek to safeguard forest resources; .a strategic research policy supplying the knowledge required for the conservation and sustainable management of forests; .development of buffer zones to assist the conservation or regeneration of tropical forests; .development and implementation of forest management plans. - The operations to be carried out shall be preceded by reports on their ecological, social and cultural impact, with qualitative or quantitative objects; this shall also apply to evaluation of the operations carried out; - funding guidelines will be published for organizations which intend to submit project proposals. - The Commission will submit to the EP and the Council an annual report with an assessment of the implementation of the regulation. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 1 January 1996. ?