EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 09/10/1995

The rapporteur underlined the need to adjust the form and intensity of cooperation with South Africa. Environmental protection should be added to the fields covered by the proposal for a regulation; non-governmental organisations should also receive financial support. Finally, Mrs GÜNTHER asked that consideration be given to all of the regional problems in southern Africa. Commissioner PAPOUTSIS pointed out that the Commission's mandate was to achieve gradual and reciprocal trade liberalisation, which was a long-term objective for South Africa. In the short term, South Africa was hoping for an agreement containing provisions similar to those in the Lomé Convention. As regards the conclusion of a free trade agreement, the Commissioner stated that the EU's was flexible on this issue and that it would have to be approved by the WTO in order to comply with GATT rules. At present, the Commission could not take over Amendment No 4 as it felt that the amount proposed was too high. Similarly, Amendment No 6 contradicted previous decisions of the Council.