Environment: promoting NGO primarily active in the field of environmental protection (Community action programme)

1995/0336(SYN) - 17/09/1997

The rapporteur welcomed the initiative for an action programme to promote non-governmental organisations involved in environmental protection. However, she argued for a whole series of amendments which covered, among other issues, the distribution of resources in the areas of activity of NGOs. Therefore, while approving the Council’s common position where it specified 40% for environmental information, the rapporteur called for 50% instead of the Council’s 40% for the analysis of environmental activities and 10% instead of 20% for cooperation. She noted that it was inconceivable for the appropriations intended for cooperation to be used to finance meetings of Commission departments and /or advisory committees under the ‘subsidies to NGOs’ heading. Commissioner Bjerregaard considered that NGOs formed an important source of information for the Commission, particularly as they could play a major role in developing a new democracy in Europe . The Commissioner could accept Amendments Nos 1, 3 and 4 in full. As for Amendments Nos 2 and 5, the first was partly acceptable and the second was acceptable in principle. However, Amendment No 6 could not be accepted by the Commission.