Forests: protection against atmospheric pollution (amend. regul. 3528/86/EEC)

1996/0185(CNS) - 16/01/1997

The rapporteur, Mr Collins (PSE, UK), welcomed the Commission’s proposals aimed at extending the two regulations on the protection of forests against atmospheric pollution and fire. However, unlike the Commission, which wanted to include budgetary provisions within the proposals, the rapporteur called for the financial provisions of the proposals to be aligned with the Interinstitutional Agreement of 1995 and with the Community’s financial perspectives. Recalling the Rio commitments to ensure the sustainable development of forests, Commissioner Flynn analysed the amendments common to both proposals. As regards the legal basis of Article 43 (Amendments Nos 1 and 9), the Commissioner considered that it was not necessary to amend this in the two proposals. As for Amendments Nos 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13 and 16, these could also not be taken over as, according to Mr Flynn, the two regulations had been revised in light of the March 1995 Interinstitutional Agreement. The same applied for Amendments Nos 5, 6, 14 and 15 which concerned advertising the work reports, without taking into account the fact that Parliament and the Commission had already come to an agreement on this. Amendments Nos 8 and 17 no longer had any rational basis because periodic reports on forest health status and details on forest fires were published regularly. As regards atmospheric pollution in particular, Amendments Nos 22, 25, 26 and 28 were superfluous because they referred to an action whose systems were already established at national, Community and international levels.