Industry and international industrial competitiveness: Community action programme

1995/0081(CNS) - 15/11/1995 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

The Committee of the Regions noted the Commission’s views and put forward specific comments on the suggestions made in the communication. It stated that when implementing the actions account should be taken of the needs of the local and regional authorities within the Member States. In this context, the strengthening of human resources was of great importance to industrial competitiveness and should therefore play a greater part in overall European industrial policy. The Committee called for an industrial policy angled more towards sustainability, sustainable management and consideration of environmental issues. The harmonisation of national legislation and the application of the principle of mutual recognition were important instruments for the realisation of the internal market, bearing in mind however that a high level of protection should be ensured in areas of public interest such as health and consumer protection and environmental protection. The Committee considered that efforts in the research and technological training area should be steadily increased not only in the EU, the Member States and in industry, but also at regional level, in order to enable firms to adapt quickly to new technologies and markets and to permit the application of appropriate strategies. It recommended therefore that a suitable campaign to promote communications technologies for SMEs be launched within the framework of the action programme. As regards the action programme, the Committee held fast to the basic condition that the action programme should be carried out with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity, should strengthen human resources and should promotion sustainable industrial production.