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

1996/0185(CNS) - 27/11/1996

The Committee endorses the two proposals for Regulations, subject to a number of observations. The Committee draws attention in particular to the fact that it is essential to prolong the period of application of the two Regulations if the underlying objectives are to be reached. There is a need to take account of the long-term nature of the forest life cycle, particularly as regards the objectives of the Regulation on the protection of forests against atmospheric pollution. In the Committee's view the EU measures to protect forests against atmospheric pollution accord with the EU's agricultural policy objectives and the objectives of the 1993 Fifth Community Programme of Policy and Action in relation to the Environment and Sustainable Development. The Committee welcomes the fact that support for the member states in the field of fire-protection measures is concentrated on at-risk areas and the fact that in future EU cooperation with a view to improving fire- protection systems is to be promoted by extending the information system. The information system is also of considerable importance in the fields of monitoring and research. The Committee is also pleased to note (a) the coordinating role which the Standing Committee on Forestry plays at both EU and world levels and (b) the planned establishment in DG VI of the Advisory Committee on Forestry which will be able to provide vertical channels of information between regions, member states and the Commission.