Plant protection: accession of the Community to the 1951 Convention IPPC revised in 1997 on the FAO Conference

2003/0178(CNS) - 31/07/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to approve the accession of the EC to the International Plant Protection Convention, as revised by Resolution 12/97 of the FAO Conference in November 1997. CONTENT : the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is a multilateral Treaty deposited with the Director General of FAO. The Convention was adopted in 1951 and entered into force the following year. It was subsequently amended in 1979 and the amendments entered into force in 1991. One of the primary objectives of the Convention is to secure "common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to provide appropriate measures for their control". The role of the Convention in relation to trade has changed significantly in recent years. It resulted in another revision of the Convention in order to bring it into line with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures in the Uruguay Round Final Act and to ensure consistency with the new system for drafting International Standards in the IPPC framework. The revised text was approved by Resolution 12/97 of the FAO Conference in November 1997. This proposal aims at approving the above revised text on the behalf of the European Community with regard to matters within its competence. It also aims to provide for the adherence of the European Community to the IPPC. The Council is requested to authorise the President to deposit the instrument of accession with the Director-General of FAO.