## Basic information

| | |
|---|---|
| **1997/2293(COS)**<br>COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) | Procedure completed |
| Forestry measures in agriculture: Community aid scheme (implem. regul. 2080/92/EEC). Report<br>**Subject**<br>3.10.11 Forestry policy | |

## Key players

European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development | OTILA Jyrki (PPE) | 03/02/1998 |

| Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |

Council of the European Union

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| 28/11/1997 | Non-legislative basic document published | COM(1997)0630 | Summary |
| 16/02/1998 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 28/09/1998 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 28/09/1998 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A4-0346/1998 | |
| 22/10/1998 | Debate in Parliament | | |
| 23/10/1998 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 09/11/1998 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

## Technical information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Procedure reference** | 1997/2293(COS) |
| **Procedure type** | COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) |
| **Procedure subtype** | Commission strategy paper |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Legal basis** | Rules of Procedure EP 148 |
| **Stage reached in procedure** | Procedure completed |
| **Committee dossier** | AGRI/4/09562 |

Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A4-0346/1998<br>OJ C 328 26.10.1998, p. 0005 | 28/09/1998 | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T4-0629/1998<br>OJ C 341 09.11.1998, p. 0362-0367 | 23/10/1998 | Summary |

**European Commission**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(1997)0630 | 28/11/1997 | Summary |

# Forestry measures in agriculture: Community aid scheme (implem. regul. 2080/92/EEC). Report

1997/2293(COS) - 23/10/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Jyrki Otila (EPP, FIN) on the Community aid scheme for forestry measures, Parliament considers that the main objective of the regulation has not been achieved as there is little evidence that the scheme has contributed to compensating farmers for reducing agricultural production; where there has been a reduction of agricultural land, it has both been very small and the land withdrawn has been the least productive. Parliament regrets that in most Member States the scheme has had little effect in terms of environmental, rural or forestry development (plots of land affected have been small, widely dispersed and fragmented). The scheme has been applied unevenly, with only four Member States participating to the extent of more than 50 000 hectares, accounting for 81% of total hectares. The distinction between farmers and non-farmers has not operated successfully. Parliament therefore calls on the Commission to publish an evaluation report indicating the levels of premia that have been paid, the areas where the scheme has been applied, the amount of agricultural production that has been reduced, the levels of compensation paid, the woodland created by afforestation, the levels of Member State contributions, etc. Parliament calls on the Court of Auditors to examine the operation of this scheme and report back to Parliament with its own evaluation of costs and benefits.

# Forestry measures in agriculture: Community aid scheme (implem. regul. 2080/92/EEC). Report

1997/2293(COS) - 28/11/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to present a report on the application of Regulation (EEC) No 2080/92 instituting a Community aid scheme for forestry measures in agriculture. CONTENT: the Commission report is based on the results of the application of the regulation from 1993 to 1996, a limited period which does not allow any definitive conclusions to be drawn on the application of the regulation. The Commission notes that afforestation of farmland under the regulation was concentrated mainly in four countries: Spain, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Portugal. The area planted in these Member States in fact represented 81% of the total area planted in the European Union and 56% of the total number of beneficiaries. The regulation was therefore applied mainly in the Member States or regions where there was a political will to extend the forest area. In terms of area, over 65% of afforestation was in areas classified as fire-risk zones under Regulation (EEC) 2158/92 on protection of forests against fire. Afforestation of these zones is an efficient method of combating soil erosion and climatic change. After just three years of application, the Commission has made the following findings for each of the three policies to which the objectives of the regulation are linked: a) objectives in relation to the CAP: although afforestation has had little impact on the reduction of excessive agricultural production, its contribution to rural development should not be overlooked (dynamic approach to land use and maintenance of the countryside); b) objectives in relation to environmental policy: in order for afforestation to have a positive effect on the

compatibility of management of the countryside with environmental equilibrium, several rules need to be respected with regard to the framework and conditions applicable to afforestation programmes, their location and the choice of planting methods. The programmes need to be amended and improved on this count in order to avoid non-respect or random interpretation of environmental conditions. Although afforestation has made a modest contribution in combating the greenhouse effect, the Commission considers that the policy of afforestation of farmland is an important factor in the overall environmental policy to which the European Union subscribed at the Rio Conference in 1992; c) objectives in relation to forestry policies: the Commission emphasizes that the Member States which apply a national afforestation policy have benefitted from the relative flexibility of the Community framework laid down in the regulation and have chosen options which are in line with this policy and concentrated either on the development of their wood-based industries or on the environmental and social functions of the woodland created. This applied in particular to Ireland and the United Kingdom.