

APPENDIX I

EC Forestry Action Program

The EC Agriculture Council has adopted a Community action program in the area of forestry, composed of seven regulations and one decision. There will be an **initial stage of five years** during which **780 million ECUs** will be made available in favour of forests; i.e., nearly double the amount already spent on forests. The program was adopted unanimously. It introduces the following measures:

Afforestation of farmed land. Introduction of an annual maximum premium of 150 ECUs per hectare for a period of 20 years to compensate for income losses of farms that are involved in reforestation. Community participation will be at 50 per cent in the least favoured zones and 25 per cent in the others. This premium will replace the compensatory allowance in the case of afforestation in the least favoured zones, and can be combined with the set aside program. In this case it will be only 50 ECUs. Other adjustments are possible to allow for the smoother application of the measure.

Development and valorization of forests in rural zones. Measures in favour of forests can be taken in zones which are benefiting from programs of rural development; these measures could be in different forms: creation and improvement of nurseries, afforestation and improvement of forests, extension of the restoration of forested areas in zones threatened by erosion or flooding, replacing of forests destroyed by fire or natural catastrophes, related works (forest roads, clearings, re-parcelling), forest fire protection measures, creation of foresters associations, programs to raise public awareness and advertising campaigns. The level of community involvement has yet to be decided.

Processing and marketing aids. These aids, which are limited to small- and medium-sized enterprises, apply to wood and cork, for all woods and all operations before sawing, i.e., from felling to stockpiling, including protection treatment and drying of the wood. The level of EC involvement will be that of already existing agriculture relations.

Setting up of a full-time forestry committee. This consultative committee will advise the Commission on its strategy. There are already two other management committees in this area, one against atmospheric pollution and the other against forest fires.

Protection of forests against atmospheric pollution. A change in the existing measures is needed, concerning improvement of the paedological conditions, creation of an information program on the state of forest health, an evaluation of different damages, maintenance and restoration measures. Community participation in the cost of the projects is set at 50 per cent and the allotted budget has been increased from 10 to 17 million ECUs.

Protection against forest fire. The existing regulation has been changed to include new actions such as experimentation pilot projects of new prevention and fire fighting techniques and technology, the development of fire fighting materials and products, the organization of courses and seminars of information