

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(94) 373 final
Brussels, 07.09.1994

Recommendation for a

COUNCIL DECISION

concerning the signing of a convention on desertification

(presented by the Commission)

1. Following the recommendations of the Rio de Janeiro UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June 1992, the 47th session of the UN General Assembly set up an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC-D) to prepare by June of this year an international convention to combat desertification, especially in Africa.

Since work on the draft convention began, it has been examined at five INC-D meetings on the subject in Nairobi (May-June 1993), Geneva (September 1993), New York (January 1994), Geneva (March 1994) and lastly in Paris (June 1994), where negotiations on the convention and its four annexes were completed.

2. On 13 June, the Council formally authorized the Commission to continue to participate in negotiations on behalf of the Community, which the Commission did in accordance with the mandate given it by the Council.¹
3. The reasons for the draft convention and for Community participation were set out in the explanatory memorandum of the recommendation from the Commission for a Council decision relating to the convention and its protocols (attached).² Article 33 of the draft stipulates that it may be signed by states and regional economic integration organizations, subject to ratification, approval and accession.
4. The final draft is not yet ready for presentation to the Council since it has to be checked by the lawyer-linguists before it is signed in Paris in the autumn (dates to be confirmed).
5. In view of the outcome of the negotiations, the Commission believes the Community is in a position to sign the convention subject to its approval, for which a proposal will be prepared later.
6. The Commission therefore proposes that the Council:
 - decide that the convention be signed on behalf of the Community and
 - authorize the President of the Council to appoint the persons duly empowered to sign on behalf of the Community.

1 Doc. 7352(94)ENV. 131 DEVGEN 34
2 SEC(94)557 final

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