

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (0-8/83)

with debate pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr LEZZI, Mrs DURY, Mr GATTO, Mr NARDUCCI, Mr VITALE and
Mr PULETTI

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Conference on tropical wood

The tabling of this question coincides with the Conference on Tropical Wood currently taking place in Geneva under the auspices of UNCTAD which should result in an International Agreement on tropical wood.

The guidelines of the Conference include notably:

- to encourage local processing in the producer countries in order to promote their industrialization and increase their export earnings.
- to improve the quality and utilization of tropical wood in international trade and for local consumption, including lesser-known and less frequently used varieties of tropical wood.

The principle of conservation of tropical forests and the need to set up local processing industries are therefore essential.

After the Japanese, major responsibility for the destruction of tropical forests lies with the Community enterprises since they import most of the available tropical wood.

PE 84.035 ./.

Did the Commission of the Communities participate in this Conference? It is vital that the decisions emerging from the Conference be complied with as soon as possible.

What steps does the Commission intend to take to limit the imports of tropical wood by Community enterprises?

What forms of aid does it intend to make available in order to promote the objectives of conservation and development resulting from the Conference?