

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr MAHER

on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on Community forestry policy

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and in particular Article 39 thereof,
  - having regard to the need for the rational development of the common agricultural policy,
  - whereas imports of wood and forestry products come second after petroleum among the raw materials imported into the Community, and consumption of these products is rising twice as fast as production,
  - whereas European forests are growing older and it will be necessary to protect supplies in the future in particular by ensuring the availability to the Community of forests at all stages of growth,
  - having regard to the difficulties which industries based on forestry products are experiencing at present in the Community,
  - having regard to the contribution afforestation can make in creating employment in particular underdeveloped regions as well as in other areas and also the possibilities for employment in the industries depending upon timber,
  - having regard to the fact that in certain regions the income deriving from timber could be greater than that provided by the present use of the soil,
  - having regard finally to the necessity to preserve the existing potential by reinforcing the laws for the protection of forests, by developing firefighting measures in particular in the dry areas of the Mediterranean,
1. Believes that forests, which cover 21% of the land surface of the Community, can make an important contribution to employment, regional policy, land use and environmental protection;
  2. Hopes that the Community will reconsider its attitude towards forestry taking into account the essential part it will play in the future;
  3. Therefore invites the Commission to put forward as quickly as possible proposals to establish a common forestry policy, making special provision for the creation of a common fund for forestry;
  4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.