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I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 1609/89**of 29 May 1989****amending, with regard to the afforestation of agricultural land, Regulation (EEC) No 797/85
on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 42 and 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽³⁾,

Whereas the Community's efforts to reduce output of agricultural products which are in surplus should be accompanied by effective measures in the field of agricultural structures; whereas in this context special importance must be attached to the afforestation of land taken out of agricultural production;

Whereas to that end the measures provided for in Article 20 of Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 ⁽⁴⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 591/89 ⁽⁵⁾, should be adapted and strengthened;

Whereas therefore the aid for afforestation should be extended to all persons carrying out the afforestation of agricultural land and the ceilings on such aid should at the same time be raised;

Whereas an annual premium per hectare afforested, to compensate for the loss of income due to the afforestation of agricultural land, may encourage farmers to afforest such land;

Whereas it should be for the Member States to lay down the conditions governing the afforestation of agricultural land,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 312, 7. 12. 1988, p. 5.

⁽²⁾ Opinion delivered on 26 May 1989 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 139, 5. 6. 1989, p. 15.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 93, 30. 3. 1985, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 65, 9. 3. 1989, p. 1.

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 15 (3) is deleted.
2. Title VI is replaced by the following:

TITLE VI**Forestry measures on agricultural holdings***Article 20*

1. Member States may grant aid for the afforestation of agricultural land to farmers, including those receiving the aids provided for in Title I of this Regulation or the aid provided for in Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1096/88 of 25 April 1988 establishing a Community scheme to encourage the cessation of farming ⁽¹⁾.

Aid for afforestation may also be granted to any other individual and to forestry associations or cooperatives or other bodies which afforest agricultural land.

2. Member States may grant aid to farmers fulfilling the conditions of Article 2 (1) (a) for investments in woodland improvements such as the provision of shelterbelts, firebreaks, waterpoints and forest roads.

3. The cost of adapting agricultural machinery for forestry work shall form part of the investments referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

4. The actual expenditure incurred by Member States pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be eligible for financing from the Fund up to the maximum eligible amounts of:

- ECU 1 800 per hectare for afforestation
- ECU 700 per hectare for woodland improvements and the provision of shelterbelts,
- ECU 1 400 per hectare for the renewal and improvement of woodland under cork oaks,
- ECU 18 000 per kilometre for forest roads,
- ECU 150 per hectare provided with firebreaks and waterpoints.

Upon reasoned request by a Member State and subject to budget availabilities, the Commission may, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 25, decide to increase the maximum amounts for afforestation, for woodland improvements and for the renewal and improvement of woodland under cork oaks up to maximum amounts of ECU 3 000, ECU 1 200 and ECU 3 000 respectively.

(¹) OJ No L 110, 29. 4. 1988, p. 1.

Article 20a

1. Member States may grant an annual premium per hectare afforested to farmers who afforest agricultural land and who do not receive the premium provided for in Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 1096/88.

2. The maximum eligible amount of the annual premium referred to in paragraph 1 shall be ECU 150 per hectare afforested per year.

The above amount shall be reduced to ECU 50 per hectare if, and for as long as, aid under Title 1 is granted for the same land.

The premium shall be payable for a maximum period of 20 years from the initial afforestation.

3. The Member States shall fix the amount and duration of the annual premium in the light of the income lost and the species or types of trees with which the land is afforested.

Article 20b

1. The Member States shall lay down the conditions for the afforestation of agricultural areas, which may in

particular include conditions relating to the location and grouping of areas which may be afforested.

2. The communication of provisions implementing this Title under Article 24 shall include:

- measures taken to determine afforestation conditions,
- measures taken to assess and control environmental impact,
- the accompanying measures taken or planned,
- the forestry plans or programmes with which afforestation is to comply.

3. In Article 26:

(a) in paragraph 2, first subparagraph:

(i) the first sentence is replaced by the following:

'The Fund shall reimburse 25 % of eligible expenditure on the measures provided for in Articles 1b, 3 to 7, 13 to 17 and 19, 20 and 20a to Member States.'

(ii) the third indent is replaced by the following:

— 50 % in the case of the aid provided for in Articles 14, 17 and 20a and, until the date of entry into force of Regulation (EEC) No 1609/89 (¹), the allowance referred to in Article 15 (3) and concerning the regions of Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and the French overseas departments within the meaning of Article 3 of Directive 75/268/EEC.

(¹) OJ No L 165, 15. 6. 1989, p. 1.

(b) in paragraph 4, the references to 'Articles 3, 4, 14, 17 and 21' are replaced by 'Articles 3, 4, 14 17, 20a and 21'.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member State.

Done at Brussels, 29 May 1989.

For the Council
The President
C. ROMERO HERRERA

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 1610/89

of 29 May 1989

laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 as regards the scheme to develop and optimally utilize woodlands in rural areas in the Community

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾;

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽³⁾,

Whereas, pursuant to Article 39 (2) (a) of the Treaty, the social structure of agriculture and the structural and natural disparities between the various agricultural regions of the Community have to be taken into account in working out the common agricultural policy;

Whereas, in order to achieve the common agricultural policy objectives referred to in Article 39 (1) (a) and (b) of the Treaty, special measures should be taken at Community level, suited to the situation of the regions whose development is lagging behind or rural areas which meet the criteria laid down in Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽⁴⁾;

Whereas to that end Article 5 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 of 19 December 1988 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the EAGGF Guidance Section ⁽⁵⁾ provides for a series of specific measures for those regions or areas, including a scheme for the development and exploitation of woodland;

Whereas the same provision stipulates that the Council shall lay down the conditions and criteria for implementation of that scheme;

Whereas, given the serious crisis which agriculture is undergoing, forestry and related activities can contribute to

the diversification of the activities of persons employed in agriculture, to better use of manpower in agriculture and thus to the creation of alternative sources of income;

Whereas forestry schemes can at the same time contribute to the conservation and improvement of the soil, fauna, flora and water resources and encourage the development of forest ecosystems which are favourable to agriculture;

Whereas certain areas of the Community are in a particularly unfavourable situation with regard to erosion, the water-holding capacity of the soil and fire risks;

Whereas measures should be laid down which could increase the contribution of woodland to the above aims,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The Community's financial contribution towards the scheme referred to in the 10th indent of Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 may cover measures related to:

- the creation and improvement of nurseries necessary for the implementation of an operational programme providing for forestry measures,
- afforestation and the improvement of woodland, with a view to improving the agricultural situation in a given area, in particular through soil and water conservation
- the extension and restoration of woodlands in areas at risk from soil erosion and flooding, and especially in catchment areas above the latter,
- the reconstitution of woodland damaged by fires or other natural causes,
- related work such as first thinning, the building of forest roads, and the rationalization of woodland,
- protection measures against forest fires, but not measures receiving aid under Council Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86 of 17 November 1986 on protection of the Community's forests against fire ⁽⁶⁾,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 312, 7. 12. 1988, p. 7.

⁽²⁾ Opinion delivered on 26 May 1989 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 139, 5. 6. 1989, p. 15.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 25.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 326, 31. 11. 1986, p. 5.

- start-up aid as a contribution to the management expenditure of associations of persons exploiting woodland, set up in order to help them improve the economic conditions in which their timber is produced, extracted and marketed,
- forestry awareness campaigns and advisory services.

Article 2

Priority shall be given to operational forestry programmes in areas where:

- the promotion of silviculture may help in improving the economy of the area concerned and thus in developing activities which will generate employment providing the possibility of multiple employment or alternative income for those engaged in agriculture,
- soil and water conservation and measures to combat erosion play a major role, particularly with regard to agriculture,
- the social and recreational function of the woodland is particularly important, specifically with a view to the development of tourism and recreational areas for the local population.

Article 3

1. Operational programmes shall include in addition to the particulars referred to in Article 14 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 the following particulars:

- a description of the situation in the existing forestry sector which justifies the proposed measures,
- a description of the aims to be achieved and an indication of priorities,
- a description of any preliminary measures envisaged, such as the collecting of information and appropriate preparatory work,
- the different forestry measures to be taken under an operational programme and the conditions with which the measures must comply,
- the back-up measures envisaged, especially those concerning the promotion and operation of forestry associations and forestry advisory services,
- any other information which the Commission considers necessary for assessing the programme.

2. Implementation of any measures, as provided for in Article 20 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 of 12 March 1985 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1609/89 ⁽²⁾, in a rural area for which there is to be an operational forestry programme must be incorporated in that programme. In that event the ceilings laid down in the said Article may be amended in the decision referred to in Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88.

Article 4

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 May 1989.

For the Council

The President

C. ROMERO HERRERA

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 93, 30. 3. 1985, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ See page 1 of this Official Journal.

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 1611/89

of 29 May 1989

concerning application of Article 7 of Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 to the cork sector

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Communities,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 of 15 February 1977 on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural and fishery products are processed and marketed ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1760/87 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 7 ⁽³⁾ thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽³⁾,

Whereas the expansion of cork-oak growing and of the cork sector may help in improving agricultural structures, especially in certain Mediterranean regions of the Community;

Whereas the measures provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 currently concern only those cork products which are listed in Annex II to the Treaty, namely those falling

within CN code 4501; whereas these measures should therefore be extended to include processed cork products falling within CN codes 4502, 4503 and 4504, in order that the expansion of the cork sector may have the desired effects in improving the situation of agriculture,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The projects referred to in Article 7 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 may also concern the production of the processed products falling within CN codes 4502, 4503 and 4504.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force of the third day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 May 1989.

For the Council

The President

C. ROMERO HERRERA

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 51, 23. 2. 1977, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 167, 26. 6. 1987, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 312, 7. 12. 1988, p. 9.

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 1612/89

of 29 May 1989

introducing provisional measures to improve the conditions under which forestry products are processed and marketed

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 42, 43 and 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽³⁾,

Whereas Community efforts to decrease, through the creation and development of alternative forestry activities for farmers, the output of products which are in surplus can produce the desired effects only if they are accompanied by measures to promote certain activities involving the primary processing and the marketing of forestry products;

Whereas the eighth indent of Article 2 (2) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 of 19 December 1988 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the EAGGF Guidance Section ⁽⁴⁾ provides that the contribution by the EAGGF Guidance Section to measures to speed up the adjustment of agricultural structures with a view to the reform of the common agricultural policy may concern measures to improve the marketing and processing of agricultural and forestry products;

Whereas Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1760/87 ⁽⁶⁾, at present concerns only the improvement of the conditions under which agricultural and fishery products are processed and marketed;

Whereas Article 10 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 requires Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 to be adapted by the

Council with a view to implementing the common measure referred to in the latter Regulation; whereas such adaptation should take place before 31 December 1989; whereas pending that adaptation provisional measures should be adopted to render Article 10 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 effective,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. In order that a development of the forestry sector may contribute to the improvement of agricultural structures, the measures instituted by Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 may be applied, under the conditions referred to in the latter Regulation and until the application of the Council Decision provided for in Article 10 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88, for the purposes of developing or rationalizing the marketing and processing of forestry products.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, development and rationalization of the marketing and processing of wood shall mean investments relating to the operations of felling, dismembering, stripping, cutting up, storage, protective treatment and drying of indigenous woods and to all working operations prior to the industrial sawing of wood at a sawing mill.

The financing of projects shall be directed preferably to investments concerning small and medium-sized undertakings the restructuring and rationalization of which may contribute to the improvement and economic development of the agricultural and rural environment.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall apply with effect from 1 January 1989.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 312, 7. 12. 1988, p. 10.

⁽²⁾ Opinion delivered on 26 May 1989 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 139, 5. 6. 1989, p. 15.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 25.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 51, 23. 2. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 167, 26. 6. 1987, p. 1.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 May 1989.

For the Council
The President
C. ROMERO HERRERA

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 1613/89

of 29 May 1989

amending Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 on the protection of the Community's forests against atmospheric pollution

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 43 and 130s thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽³⁾,

Whereas forest decline is persisting in many parts of the Community, and whereas the Community scheme provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 ⁽⁴⁾ should therefore be reinforced;

Whereas one of the reasons why forests in the Community are declining and dying back is acid deposition and atmospheric pollution in general; whereas such pollution can cause damage to trees both directly through their leaves and indirectly through the soil, and that damage can lead, *inter alia*, to a deterioration in the state of the soil and cause imbalance of the nutritive elements to the soil and in trees;

Whereas in order to help stem the die-back of forests, Member States should be helped to take measures to maintain and restore them, aimed at re-establishing favourable soil conditions in forest stands where they have deteriorated, in particular through acid deposition;

Whereas a Standing Forestry Committee has been set up by Decision 89/367/EEC ⁽⁵⁾; whereas that Committee should be granted the powers of the Committee on Forest Protection as provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86;

Whereas information obtained on the Member State on atmospheric pollution of forests and its effects, on methods

of evaluating damage and on measures to maintain and restore damaged forests should be processed centrally, in order to avoid duplication of effort and of financing;

Whereas the Community's financial contribution to the measures involved should be adjusted accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 is hereby amended as follows:

1. In Article 4 (1) the following indent is added:
— pilot projects to maintain damaged forests.'

2. The following Article 4a is inserted:

'Article 4a

1. A programme is hereby introduced for the synoptic processing of information on knowledge of atmospheric pollution in woodland and its effects.

2. In drawing up and monitoring this programme the Commission may call on specialized institutes.

3. The programme shall be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8.'

3. Article 6 is hereby repealed.

4. Article 7 (1) is replaced by the following

'1. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be followed, the matter shall be referred to the Standing Forestry Committee set up by Decision 89/367/EEC ⁽¹⁾, hereinafter called "the committee", by the chairman, either on his own initiative or at the request of the representative of a Member State.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 165, 15. 6. 1989, p. 14.'

5. Article 10 is hereby repealed.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 312, 7. 12. 1988, p. 12.

⁽²⁾ Opinion delivered on 26 May 1989 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 139, 5. 6. 1989, p. 14.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 326, 21. 11. 1986, p. 2.

⁽⁵⁾ See page 14 of the Official Journal.

6. In Article 11 (2) '10 million ECU' is replaced by 'ECU 17 million'.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

7. In Article 12 (1) and (2), '30 %' is replaced by '50 %'.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 May 1989.

For the Council
The President
C. ROMERO HERRERA

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 1614/89

of 29 May 1989

amending Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86 on protection of the Community's forests against fire

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 43 and 130s thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽³⁾,

Whereas, despite the existence of prevention measures, forest fires each year affect 500 000 hectares of woodland, especially in the southern part of the Community; whereas it is therefore necessary for those preventive measures, introduced by Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86 ⁽⁴⁾, to be supplemented by appropriate measures to ensure more effective protection of forests against fires;

Whereas experiments with new techniques and technologies and new equipment and products can help to increase such protection;

Whereas a Standing Forestry Committee has been set up by Decision 89/367/EEC ⁽⁵⁾; whereas that committee should be granted the powers of the Committee on Forest Protection as provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86;

Whereas the Community's financial contribution to the measures involved should be adjusted accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86 is hereby amended as follows:

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 312, 7. 12. 1988, p. 113.

⁽²⁾ Opinion delivered on 26 May 1989 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 139, 5. 6. 1989, p. 14.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 326, 21. 11. 1986, p. 5.

⁽⁵⁾ See page 14 of this Official Journal.

1. In Article 2:

(a) the following paragraph is added:

'1a. The scheme shall also cover measures to encourage pilot projects and experiments in new techniques and technologies, and the development of equipment and products which may increase the effectiveness of measures to protect forests against fires.'

(b) in paragraph 2, 'paragraph 1' is replaced by 'paragraphs 1 and 1a'.

2. Article 4 (1) is amended as follows:

(a) in paragraph 1, the first part of the sentence is replaced by the following:

'The Standing Forestry Committee set up by Decision 89/367/EEC ⁽²⁾ shall be consulted, within the meaning of Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86';

(b) in paragraph 2, 'within the meaning of Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86' is deleted.

(c) the following footnote is added:

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 165, 15. 6. 1989, p. 14.'

3. The following is added after Article 4:

Article 4a

The Commission shall coordinate and monitor the measures taken for the protection of forests against fire that are the subject of this Regulation. It may in particular have recourse to research institutes and scientific and technical advisers.'

4. In Article 5 (2), 'ECU 20 million' is replaced by 'ECU 31,5 million'.

5. In Article 6, '30 %' is replaced by '50 %'.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 May 1989.

For the Council
The President
C. ROMERO HERRERA

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 1615/89

of 29 May 1989

establishing a European Forestry Information and Communication System (Efics)

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 213 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽³⁾,

Whereas the implementation and monitoring of Regulations (EEC) No 1609/89, (EEC) No 1610/89, (EEC) No 1611/89 and (EEC) No 1612/89, of Decision 89/367/EEC and of Regulations (EEC) No 1613/89 and (EEC) No 1614/89 ⁽⁴⁾ on measures relating to the forestry sector call for detailed, consistent and comparable information on the situation of and developments in that sector in the Community;

Whereas the forestry data available at Community level is incomplete and covers only part of the information necessary for taking consistent forestry measures; whereas, however, a considerable amount of information already exists in many Member States and this should be collected and made comparable; whereas to that end there should be an appropriate system for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of the information;

Whereas such data must cover not only the present situation of woodlands and their structure and the production and consumption of wood but also developments in the afforestation of agricultural land, the forestry situation in the various regions of the Community and a description of the exploitation, processing and marketing of forestry products;

Whereas it is necessary to grant assistance to certain Member States or regions to help them to compile data or improve the availability of comparable data which can be used at Community level;

Whereas the setting-up of this system require close cooperation between the Commission and the Member

States, and in particular assistance from the relevant bodies within the Member States, in order to facilitate access to the data;

Whereas in addition to meeting the Community's requirements the system should facilitate the implementation of decisions taken at national and regional level concerning the forestry sector and thereby improve knowledge of that sector at all levels;

Whereas the system must be set up taking account of existing information systems at Community level in order to ensure complementarity and achieve consistency and comparability in data collected in the Member States.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In order to collect comparable and objective information on the structure and operation of the forestry sector in the Community, and thus facilitate implementation and monitoring of the Community forestry provisions in force, in particular the measures which are the subject of Regulations (EEC) No 1609/89, (EEC) No 1610/89, (EEC) No 1611/89, and (EEC) No 1612/89, of Decision 89/367/EEC and Regulations (EEC) No 1613/89 and (EEC) No 1614/89 a European Forestry Information and Communication System (Efics), hereinafter called 'the System', is hereby set up, the objective of which is to collect, coordinate, standardize and process data concerning the forestry sector and its development.

Article 2

The System shall take account of existing data, and in particular statistics compiled by the Statistical Office of the European Communities, and shall make use of information available in the Member States, in particular data contained in national forestry inventories, and of any database accessible at Community and international level.

The data collected shall be published subject to its conformity with the rules of the Commission and the Member States governing information disclosure, specifically with regard to the confidentiality of statistics.

Article 3

The Commission shall set up the System in close cooperation with the Member States during an initial

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 312, 7. 12. 1988, p. 14.

⁽²⁾ Opinion delivered on 26 May 1989 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 139, 5. 6. 1989, p. 15.

⁽⁴⁾ See pages 1, 3, 5, 6, 14, 8 and 10 respectively, of this Official Journal.

four-year stage starting on 1 January 1989 and ending on 31 December 1992. In this connection it shall adopt detailed rules for implementing this Regulation after consulting the Standing Forestry Committee set up by Decision 89/367/EEC.

The Commission shall, where appropriate, support measures taken by the Member States to meet the specific requirements for setting up the System.

Article 4

The total estimated cost of establishing and operating the System during the development period (1989 to 1992) is ECU 3 900 000.

Article 5

The Commission shall report to the Council, before 1 January 1993, on the implementation of the System and the initial results obtained. In the light of that report it shall, where necessary, make proposals to the Council on the organization and operation of the System for the period 1993 to 1998.

Article 6

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 May 1989.

For the Council

The President

C. ROMERO HERRERA

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 29 May 1989

setting up a Standing Forestry Committee

(89/367/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 43, 130s and 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽³⁾,

Whereas Community efforts to decrease the output of agricultural products which are in surplus must be accompanied by effective measures to improve agricultural structures;

Whereas in this context the forestry sector must make a major contribution both to creating alternative sources of agricultural income and to the development of forest ecosystems which are favourable to agriculture;

Whereas the Community's woodland resources are subject to a number of threats which risk jeopardizing the fulfilment of their economic, environmental and social functions;

Whereas, moreover, the various Community policies affect the forestry sector and its role in the context of agricultural structure and rural development policy;

Whereas close and constant cooperation between the Member States and the Commission including in particular a permanent exchange of information between the Member States on forestry situations and developments and the various Community policies affecting the forestry sector is an appropriate instrument for maintaining the effectiveness of forestry measures taken in the context of the agricultural structure and rural development policy;

Whereas the most effective way of achieving such cooperation is to set up a Standing Committee composed of representatives of each of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In order to ensure closer and more constant cooperation in the forestry sector between the Member States and the Commission and thereby support forestry measures initiated under the Community agricultural structure and rural development policy, a Standing Forestry Committee, hereinafter referred to as 'the committee' is hereby set up.

Article 2

1. Taking account of Member States' forestry policies and measures and programmes relating thereto, of the role of the forestry sector in the context of agricultural structure and rural development policy and of the links between the forestry sector and the various Community policies, the Member States shall keep each other and the Commission informed, within the committee, of the situation and

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 312, 7. 12. 1988, p. 11.

⁽²⁾ Opinion delivered on 26 May 1989 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 139, 5. 6. 1989, p. 15.

developments in the forestry sector and the relevant policies.

2. The Commission may consult the committee on any issue or aspect concerning the forestry sector arising from the various Community policies either on its own initiative or at the request of the representative of a Member State.

3. The Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, may assign other duties to the committee in connection with Community measures affecting the forestry sector.

Article 3

The committee shall be composed of the representatives of the Member States. It shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission.

The committee's secretariat shall be provided by the Commission.

The committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 May 1989.

For the Council

The President

C. ROMERO HERRERA
