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B5-0397/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

by Nicholas Clegg

on the Commission Communication on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), Proposal for an Action Plan

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Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the Commission Communication on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), Proposal for an Action Plan

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas there is an acute need for action to combat the trade in illegally sourced timber,
- B. whereas a Regulation setting up a voluntary licensing scheme for timber is needed shortly, as this is a most realistic way to tackle the trade in illegal timber,
- C. whereas the proposed Action Plan builds on commitments made in the 6th Community Environmental Action Plan,
- D. whereas trade in illegally harvested timber has an enormous impact on the environment, notably through damage caused to wildlife and biodiversity and contributing to the deforestation process,
 - 1. Urges the Commission to propose a Regulation setting up a voluntary licensing scheme as soon as possible and at the latest by the end of December 2003;
 - 2. Demands that the legal base for the proposed Regulation reflect its essential aim and content as a predominantly environmental rather than trade facilitation measure, and that Article 175 EC rather than Article 133 EC be used therefore;
 - 3. Demands that the Commission report back to both the Council and Parliament on the need for and the feasibility of legislation to control the imports of all illegally sourced timber by September 2004 at the latest.