

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Bill Newton Dunn

on amending the Habitats Directive

Lapse date: 2.4.2009

Written declaration on amending the Habitats Directive

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 1 and Annexes 1 and 2 of the Habitats Directive,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Fennoscandian wooded pastures are used to designate Natura 2000 sites in Boreal and Continental zones but there is no equivalent designation for the Atlantic or other zones,
- B. whereas some important wooded pasture sites are being assigned other less appropriate habitat designations in the Atlantic zone, creating a potential basis for inappropriate management practices and the loss of key features and species,
- C. whereas saproxylic beetles species within Annex 2 are associated with wooded pastures extending beyond Fennoscandinavia and Eastern Europe,
1. Calls on the Commission to amend the Habitats Directive and its Annexes 1 and 2 so that all wooded pastures of Community interest may be designated and that measures to halt the loss of biodiversity can be improved;
 2. Encourages the Commission to commit itself to either extend the designation of all Fennoscandian wooded pastures or to create a new definition of wooded pasture, as it would be appropriate to enable all Member States to designate wooded pastures as Natura 2000 sites;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.