

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2846/99  
by Michel Raymond (EDD)  
to the Commission

Subject: Article 30(1) third indent of Regulation (EC) No 1257/99 of 17 May 1999 (forestry support)

Article 30(1) third indent of Regulation (EC) No 1257/99<sup>1</sup> of 17 May 1999 states that support for forestry applies to the processing of forestry products and (in the next line) that investment related to the use of wood as a raw material shall be limited to working operations prior to industrial processing.

This constitutes an ambiguity which makes the European Union's position vis-à-vis its support for the processing of forestry products incomprehensible.

Could the Commission clarify its position with regard to this important matter?

Does this mean that support for the first stage of timber processing (the work of sawmills) will be discontinued?

If so, such a decision would deal a severe blow to the development of the timber trade in several European countries at a time when the latter's economic impact is constantly increasing.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.