

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2449/03  
by Georges Berthu (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Conservation of hedgerows

Hedgerow conservation appears very often to be in the general interest because hedgerows safeguard biodiversity and inhibit run-off and soil erosion, etc. In France, some départements now grant aid for the replanting of hedgerows.

However, besides planting there is also the question of upkeep, which in a way is currently a free service provided by the farmer to the local community.

Does the Commission think it would be possible to offset the cost of this service by introducing assistance for the annual maintenance of hedgerows?