

European Parliament  
WIB 3M081  
60, Rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussels,  
Belgium  
23 April 2009

To whom it may concern,

I am sending a letter of support for the rural development scheme proposed by The Woodland League entitled Pilot Project Proposal for Integrated Sustainable Forest Management in County Clare. You are currently examining the submission form with a view of whether to support it through funding. After looking at the proposal extensively I am lending my support to the scheme for a number of reasons.

A big part of the scheme is converting from chipboard to hemp and this has many advantages, for instance the hemp can be grown locally and there is a reduction in pollution from the factory.

At a time when Ireland is coming under more and more pressure environmentally by the E.U. this scheme can go a long way in satisfying EU goals. The proposal also possesses economic legitimacy as one of the main aims of the project is to provide meaningful employment. This is also a major coup because of the current state of the economic climate. This scheme will provide a lot more to the local communities than the usual way that these public funds are spent.

Since all EU states will have to review their own rural development programmes by 2010, this model can be adapted and Ireland can lead the way in rural development. The project promotes the wise use and management of natural resources something which I feel is vital when facing the environmental challenges that we do. Not only will the scheme satisfy the European Court of Justice, who have been punishing Ireland over environmental practices, but it will also boost local economies which is a major advantage.

For Ireland to progress, schemes like this one are needed to propel it, this is why I am giving my full backing to the scheme and would encourage you to accept the submission from The Woodland League.

Yours,

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Kathy Sinnott, MEP for Munster  
Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety