## Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the 'Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors'

COM(2007) 192 final — 2007/0066 (COD)

(2007/C 175/10)

On 11 May 2007 the Council of the European Union decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee, under Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

Considering that the content of the proposal is entirely satisfactory and requires no comment on its part, the Committee, at its 436th plenary session, held on 30 and 31 May 2007 (meeting of 30 May), approved the proposed text by 162 votes to 1 with 8 abstentions.

Brussels, 30 May 2007.

The President
of the European Economic and Social Committee
Dimitris DIMITRIADIS

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the 'Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the export and import of dangerous chemicals'

COM(2006) 745 final — 2006/0246 (COD)

(2007/C 175/11)

On 21 December 2006, the Council decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee, under Articles 133 and 175(1) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

The Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its opinion on 8 May 2007. The rapporteur was Mr Pezzini.

At its 436th plenary session, held on 30 and 31 May 2007 (meeting of 30 May 2007), the European Economic and Social Committee adopted the following opinion by 148 votes to 2 with 1 abstention.

## 1. Conclusions and recommendations

- smooth, uniform procedures to ensure the prompt provision of proper information, to countries that import dangerous chemical products and substances.
- 1.1 The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has always supported the active role played by the European Commission in introducing and implementing the Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure for hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade, together with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP).
- 1.3 The Committee considers that the more stringent provisions under Regulation (EC) 304/2003, which was annulled by the Court of Justice on the grounds of its wrong legal basis, and reinstated in the present proposal for a new regulation are a key element in overall safety and the management of dangerous chemicals.
- 1.2 The Committee agrees that a harmonised approach by the Commission is necessary, aimed at improving the protection of human health and the environment in importing countries, especially developing countries. It also agrees on the need to use streamlined, clear and transparent mechanisms based on
- 1.4 The Committee supports the Commission's aim to use the opportunity provided by the correction of the legal basis of the regulation in order to increase the effectiveness of the