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01/10/01



Strasbourg, 1 October 2001

BS-621/01

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Bertel Haarder on behalf of the ELDR Group

on Public health problems in Uzbekistan

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas health conditions are quickly deteriorating in Uzbekistan, notably in the regions of Karakalpakistan and Khorzem;
 - B. whereas such a situation is largely due to the environmental disaster provoked by progressive drainage of the Aral sea;
 - C. whereas one of the most serious consequences of this emergency is the lack of access to drinkable water for the local population;
 - D. whereas about 35 millions people are directly or indirectly affected by the crisis and, despite a number of emergency measures already undertaken, the Uzbekistan authorities are not in position to cope with the magnitude of the disaster;
 - E. whereas Uzbekistan has a strategic role to play in Central Asia, given its border with North Afghanistan, and whereas many Afghan refugees are expected to seek asylum in Uzbekistan;
1. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to provide adequate aid for the population of Uzbekistan, especially drinkable water and food supplies;
 2. Considers that one of the priority programmes in the framework of TACIS should consist in limiting the ecological deterioration of the Aral Sea, and invites the Uzbekistan authorities to make the improvement of the local ecosystem a structural fight in their policy;
 3. Calls also for the adoption of more stringent measures for the oil companies working in the area of the Aral Sea, so to limit in the future more devastating ecological damages;

309.514

4. Instructs its President to forward the present resolution to the Council, the Commission and the government of Uzbekistan.

pp. Mr Handler

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. S. M.' or similar, written in a cursive style.