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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-1284/2016**

22.11.2016

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to Questions for Oral Answer B8-1812/2016, B8-1813/2016 and B8-1814/2016

pursuant to Rule 128(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Italy after the earthquakes  
(2016/2988(RSP))

**Matteo Salvini, Mara Bizzotto, Mario Borghezio, Angelo Ciocca, Lorenzo Fontana**

on behalf of the ENF Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Italy after the earthquakes (2016/2988(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the questions to the Commission on the situation in Italy after the earthquakes (O-000139/2016 – B8-1812/2016, O-000140/2016 – B8-1813/2016 and O-000141/2016 – B8-1814/2016),
- having regard to Rules 128(5) and 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas between August and October 2016 three devastating earthquakes hit the Central Apennines region of Italy, killing 290 people, injuring more than 400 and displacing tens of thousands; whereas the most recent quake, which occurred on 30 October, is the strongest to have been recorded in Italy since the 1980 Irpinia earthquake;
- B. whereas the territories concerned suffer from a deformation that extends over an area of about 130 square kilometres, with a maximum displacement of at least 70 centimetres, and whereas the earthquakes caused serious damage to towns, infrastructure and historic, artistic and cultural heritage assets – including some of global significance – and brought production activities and tourism to a complete halt;
- C. whereas earthquake-prone Member States are obliged constantly to spend large sums of money on emergency-response, reconstruction and prevention operations; whereas, in the light of the budgetary restrictions imposed by the EU, this places those Member States at a structural disadvantage compared to the other Member States;
- D. whereas European Union Solidarity Fund support may be provided only in respect of expenditure on rescue and emergency operations;
- E. whereas under Regulation (EU) No 651/2014<sup>1</sup> compensation may be provided only for material damage to assets such as buildings, equipment, machinery or stocks and loss of income due to the full or partial suspension of activity for a period not exceeding six months from the occurrence of the disaster, as this is not regarded as State aid; whereas this provision falls far short of what is required, in particular following earthquakes, as the impact of the damage they cause is felt over a long period, for example through the loss of all or part of a wide range of quality local products;
- F. whereas, in order to cover reconstruction costs, Italy may well to be obliged to submit a request for the amendment of its national and regional operational programmes under Article 30 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013<sup>2</sup> in order to be able to allocate more

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (OJ L 187, 26.6.2014, p. 1).

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European

resources to Thematic Objective 5 (Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management), which would be to the detriment of existing structural investment plans;

- G. whereas proper plans for public investment by Member States in reconstruction work and measures to guard against natural disasters would make a major contribution towards the creation of high-quality, stable and sustainable jobs and help to meet the objectives of full employment and economic, social and territorial cohesion laid down in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union;
1. Expresses its deep sorrow at the loss of life and its solidarity with all those affected by the earthquakes, as well as its admiration for the selfless commitment shown by all those involved in organising and carrying out the rescue operations, in particular civil protection workers, volunteers, police and fire services and local mayors;
  2. Deplores the fact that, as a result of the restrictions that EU law currently places on budgets and State aids, it is in practice impossible for earthquake-prone Member States to pursue proper programmes of investment in reconstruction work and earthquake prevention and to provide support for the economic activities affected unless they cut services or resources already earmarked for existing structural investment plans;
  3. Believes there to be a clear and pressing need for: (a) Member State expenditure on reconstruction work and earthquake prevention to be excluded from the scope of budgetary restrictions laid down by the EU; (b) favourable tax treatment offered by Member State to communities and businesses affected by natural disasters no longer to be regarded as State aid, and thus to be declared admissible; (c) the EU authorities to make a strong commitment to safeguarding, promoting and developing production activities and tourism in the areas hit by the earthquakes;
  4. Calls accordingly on the Commission to lose no time in bringing forward a proposal for the amendment of the relevant EU legislation;
  5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.