



Plenary sitting

B8-1291/2016

23.11.2016

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))

**Raffaele Fitto, Remo Sernagiotto, Andrew Lewer, Branislav Škripek,
Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Ruža Tomašić**
on behalf of the ECR Group

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 of 15 March 2016 on the provision of emergency support within the Union¹,
 - having regard to Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative')²,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid³,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions of 11 April 2011 on further developing risk assessment for disaster management within the European Union,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions of 28 November 2008 calling for civil protection capabilities to be enhanced by a European mutual assistance system building on the civil protection modular approach (16474/08),
 - having regard to its resolution of 19 June 2008 on stepping up the Union's disaster response capacity⁴,
 - 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, after the devastating earthquake that hit central Italy on 24 August 2016, three more major quakes, together with a flurry of tremors, struck the central Italian regions, on 26 October with magnitudes of 5.5 and 6.1, and on 30 October with a magnitude of 6.5;
- B. whereas quakes and aftershocks have continued to batter central Italy over the past months; whereas the tremor that shook Italy on 30 October was the most powerful earthquake to hit the country since 1980;
- C. whereas in the recent quakes more than 400 people are reported to have been injured and 290 to have died;

¹ OJ L 70, 16.3.2016, p. 1.

² OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 1.

³ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

⁴ OJ C 286 E, 27.11.2009, p. 15.

- D. whereas the devastating earthquakes could accumulate in a 'domino effect' and lead to 100 000 displaced residents;
 - E. whereas the impact of the latest quakes has destroyed towns, seriously damaged local and regional infrastructure, ruined historic and cultural heritage, damaged economic activities, especially those of SMEs, agriculture, and the potential of the tourism and hospitality industries;
 - F. 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;
 - G. whereas sustainable reconstruction efforts need to be properly coordinated in order to remedy the economic and social losses;
 - H. whereas the reconstruction process must take into account past experiences and the need to provide security and stability for affected residents in order to ensure that they can continue to live in these regions, and whereas sustainable reconstruction must be done with the utmost rapidity, and be facilitated by adequate resources, bureaucratic simplification and transparency;
 - I. whereas prevention also requires a concrete action programme on information dissemination, awareness and education;
1. Expresses its deepest solidarity and empathy with all the individuals affected by the earthquakes and their families, and with the Italian national, regional and local authorities involved in relief efforts following the disaster;
 2. Appreciates the unremitting efforts of the rescue units, civil protection workers, volunteers, civil society organisations, and local, regional and national authorities to save lives and contain the damage in the devastated areas;
 3. Underlines the serious economic effects of the successive earthquakes and the destruction left in their wake;
 4. Notes the solidarity expressed by other Member States, European regions and international players in the form of mutual assistance in emergency situations;
 5. Highlights the prediction problems associated with earthquake systems and the high seismicity of South East Europe; notes with concern that thousands of people have died and hundreds of thousands been left homeless in the past 15 years as a result of destructive earthquakes affecting Europe;
 6. Expresses its concern over the large number of displaced persons exposed to the harsh weather conditions of the forthcoming winter season; calls on the Commission therefore to offer all necessary help to the Italian authorities to allow them to guarantee decent living conditions for the people deprived of their homes;
 7. Stresses the importance of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism in fostering cooperation among national civil protection authorities across Europe in adverse situations and in minimising the effects of earthquakes; calls on the Commission and the

Member States to further simplify the procedures for the activation of the Mechanism in order to make it available rapidly and effectively in the immediate aftermath of a disaster;

8. Calls on the Commission to undertake all necessary measures to allow, and provide for, rapid and effective financing through the European Union Solidarity Fund;
9. Encourages the Commission to develop a European programme on the culture of prevention, which would limit the effects of often dramatic natural events that expose the extreme fragility and vulnerability of a given territory;
10. Calls on the Commission to ensure that all available instruments within the cohesion and regional funds are used effectively for prevention activities, and for ensuring territorial safety, reconstruction activities and all other necessary interventions, in full cooperation with the Italian national and regional authorities; calls on the Commission to consider the possibility of using the European Fund for Rural Development to sustain the rural areas and agricultural activities that have been impacted by the earthquakes;
11. Calls on the Commission to encourage all initiatives aimed at ensuring the implementation of a plan for the recovery, conservation, protection and enhancement of historical, artistic and cultural heritage damaged by the recent earthquake in central Italy;
12. In view of the Italian Government's call for flexibility in light of this exceptional and very serious situation, calls on the Commission to ensure that all resources provided or directed to alleviate the situation are actually used by the Italian Government for this specific purpose;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government of Italy, and the regional and local authorities of the areas affected.