



Plenary sitting

B8-0003/2017

3.1.2017

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure
on tardigrades and their resistance to radiation

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Motion for a European Parliament resolution on tardigrades and their resistance to radiation

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas tardigrades (also known as water bears), in particular *Ramazzottius varieornatus*, are micro-organisms that have regularly been the focus of scientific research owing to their resistance to extreme conditions, particularly atmospheric ones (e.g. temperatures below -200°C or above 100°C);
- B. whereas, according to a scientific study published by the University of Tokyo on 20 September 2016, tardigrades may also be able to resist prolonged exposure to X-rays thanks to the Dsup (Damage Suppressor) protein, which is thought to minimise radiation-induced lesions;
- C. whereas this research, according to the scientists responsible, may constitute a scientific breakthrough which will ultimately make it possible to protect human cells from radioactivity;
- 1. Encourages the Commission to support, through the relevant European agencies and existing research programmes, further research programmes on resistance to radioactivity.