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A7-0377/1

Amendment 1

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Report

A7-0377/2010

Michael Gahler

A sustainable EU policy for the High North
2009/2214(INI)

Motion for a resolution (Rule 157(4) of the Rules of Procedure) replacing non-legislative motion for a resolution A7-0377/2010

European Parliament resolution on a sustainable EU policy for the High North (2009/2214(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), concluded on 10 December 1982 and in force since 16 November 1994,
 - having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),
 - having regard to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, of 13 September 2007,
 - having regard to the Paper of 14 March 2008 from the High Representative and the European Commission to the European Council, entitled ‘Climate Change and International Security’,
 - having regard to the US Navy Arctic Roadmap of 10 November 2009,
- A. whereas the effects of climate change almost solely originating from outside the Arctic will impact the region; whereas, in particular, the retreat of the sea ice is likely to produce unforeseeable and disastrous environmental effects and repercussions in other parts of the planet, as well as an increase in shipping, in particular between Europe, Asia and North America, in exploration and exploitation of natural resources, such as gas, oil and other minerals, but also other natural resources such as fish, and exploitation of marine genetic resources, increased mining and logging activities and increased tourism,
- B. whereas the industrial exploitation of the Arctic Ocean, which has previously been protected by ice, will have a serious impact on the highly sensitive Arctic ecosystem and on global climate,
- C. whereas the increased accessibility of the enormous hydrocarbon resources in the Arctic region is changing the geo-strategic dynamics of the region, with potential consequences for international stability and European security interests, and whereas the increased geo-

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strategic interest of the EU and NATO member states is leading to a militarisation of the High North,

1. Takes the view that the best way of protecting natural resources would be by means of a moratorium on industrial exploitation of the Arctic Ocean region, which has hitherto been covered in ice, and that this moratorium must remain in force until a legally binding, superordinate framework has been adopted to provide full protection for the ecosystem and people in the Arctic;
2. Acknowledges that the EU, like other developed areas of the world, contributes substantially to climate change and hence bears special responsibility;
3. Regards the Arctic as a highly sensitive ecosystem, where the effects of climate change are especially visible, having catastrophic and irreparable repercussions on other regions in the world;
4. Stresses the need to protect the fragile environment of the Arctic; underlines the importance of overall stability and peace in the region; stresses that the EU should pursue policies that ensure the highest priority of all to protecting the Arctic region, which in turn is one of the principal global climate regulators and is a major source of income to the inhabitants of the region;
5. Stresses the leading role which the EU should play in reducing the pollution which enters the Arctic region, in particular through long-range transport; points out that the climatic change in the Arctic will have a catastrophic and irreparable impact on coastal regions in Europe and elsewhere, and on climate-dependent industries, not only in Europe, such as agriculture, renewable energy, fisheries and transport;
6. Stresses that the effects of the melting ice have only minor, short-term positive aspects for economic development in relation to the far greater long-term environmentally destructive developments in the Arctic region;
7. Notes with concern the increasing militarisation of the Arctic region by the Arctic State Russia and the NATO States the USA, Canada, Denmark and Norway, and does not consider that the Arctic Roadmap of the US Navy, the increase in the number of Canada's Arctic Rangers, the military exercises carried out in August 2010 or the planned Russian troop deployment by 2020 contribute to fostering a constructive understanding and cooperation in the region; points out that the Arctic States have on several occasions declared their commitment to, and in some cases have worked towards, resolving possible conflicts of interests in accordance with the principles of international law;
8. Recognises that, whilst there are obvious differences between the Arctic and the Antarctic, there are also obvious similarities; points out that the text of the Antarctic Treaty successfully creates a framework for peaceful research and cooperation without getting caught up in territorial disputes; stresses that the same aims of peaceful research and cooperation are broad enough and the situation similar enough to be considered very relevant also in the Arctic context;
9. Is conscious of the need for resources for a growing world population, recognises that

sufficient resources are available for the current world population, particularly if a far-reaching switch is made to the use of renewable energy sources and energy-saving technologies, but that unjust distribution of the exploitation of resources creates extremely poor and extremely rich regions in the world, and therefore calls for political, economic and social measures and a far-reaching switch to renewable energy sources and energy-saving technologies in order to remedy this imbalance; does not regard the environmentally damaging exploitation of the oil and gas reserves and fish stocks believed to exist in the Arctic as a solution, and calls for unlimited protection of this highly sensitive ecosystem;

10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Arctic Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the governments and parliaments of the Arctic region states.

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