

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Segni, Collins, Queirò and Souchet

on the correct interpretation of Article 158 of the Amsterdam Treaty

B5-0255/1999**Resolution on the correct interpretation of Article 158 of the Amsterdam Treaty**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 158 and Annex 30 of the Amsterdam Treaty and noting the differences in meaning in the various languages,
 - having considered opinion SJ218/98 of 27 July 1998 issued by the EP's Legal Service,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Policy of 28 May 1998,
 - whereas all the islands in the EU are restricted in their economic development and communications,
 - whereas according to Agenda 2000 the only islands needing structural aid are those meeting macroeconomic rather than geographical criteria, as set out in the Amsterdam Treaty,
 - whereas the EU has already taken account of natural handicaps as factors determining the fragility of an economy (outermost or under-populated regions),
 - whereas the Isle of Wight has decided to bring the 'Article 158' case before the Court of Justice,
1. Hopes that the Court of Justice will interpret Article 158 in the light of Annex 30 and recognise that all islands, not only the '*least favoured*' ones – should have the status of less-favoured regions of the EU, with all that entails;
 2. Calls on the relevant committee to examine the issue.