

*Chichester must
post (text) from L*

Strasbourg, 15 November 1999

BS-303/99

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

in conformity with article 50 of Rules of Parliament
tabled by
on behalf of the EPP Group

*Chichester / Monillon / de Larosière
Ponsetti*

on the Year 2000 computer Bug and its possible effects

The European Parliament,

Chichester

- Having in mind that the year 2000 will begin in less than 45 days from now;
- Having regard to the communications of the Commission of December 1998 and June 1999, SEC(98) 2100 and COM(99) 275;
- Having listen the Commission's representatives oral update given to the INDU Committee ~~at~~ *during* last week's meeting;
- Having regard to its resolution on the " Year 2000 computer problem ", of 25/02/99, (Donnelly report, A4-14/99), responding to another Commission communication, COM(98) 102;
- A. Whereas any existing digital system can be affected by the change of numbering the coming new year, including of course those on nuclear power plants and other environment-sensitive plants;
- B. Whereas in any case, in order to properly assess the ~~the~~ *any* potential risks, it is important to know that very few nuclear plants have computerised safety systems;
- C. Whereas the Commission stated in the above mentioned update that Member States with nuclear power plants began to work on the issue at least two years ago and that they report that corrective actions are essentially completed;
- D. Whereas the Commission also stated that a number of systems in nuclear power plants in CEEC's and especially in NIS's could be affected, in which case an indirect challenge to nuclear safety could appear;
- E. Whereas the Commission also stated that in key infrastructures the risk of disruption is low, but overall SME's seem to be less attentive and prepared;

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Whereas data errors and false signals may also affect the nuclear armed forces, with potentially disastrous consequences notably where nuclear weapons are on "hair-trigger" alert such as in the United States of America and the Russian Federation

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Whereas two EU Member states have nuclear armed forces which may be affected by year 2000 computer problems

1. Recalls and restates its resolution of 25/02/99 on the "Year 2000 computer problem" and notes that in the mean time two overall problems seem to persist:
 - degree of progress in some Member States is not sufficient, which may lead to consequences in view of existing cross-border global and sectorial levels of integration;
 - SME's are more exposed to possible disruption than big international companies and a certain number of them may be liable to suffer heavy financial consequences if they do not adjust in time;
2. Recommends that both the Commission and national and regional administrations engage immediately in new last-minute awareness actions especially aimed at SME's, using all possible means of information nets;
3. Suggests that public authorities in charge should instruct nuclear plants and other plants in specific ~~sensitive environment~~ fields to shut down before the 31 of december, in case they can not verifiably demonstrate full compliance with adjustment to the Year 2000 problem;
4. Suggests additionnally that the Commission and the Council press third countries governments, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, Turkey, Russia and New Independent States, to act firmly and convincingly along the lines refered in the above paragraph;
5. Strongly recommends that the European Council of Helsinki, to be held just a couple of weeks before the turn of the date, makes a awareness statement to the European citizens on the precise situation of the problem and potential risks;

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Calls on the governments of the states having a nuclear weapon capability to take all the necessary steps to avoid that year 2000 computer problems may lead to the accidental or unintended firing of nuclear weapons

6. Instructs its President to forward the present resolution to the Council, Commission and the Governments of CEEC's countries, Russia, Turkey and New Independent States.

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