

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr Pasqua and Mr Souchet

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the exceptional storms which struck Europe, and in particular France, in December 1999

B5-0029/2000

Resolution on the exceptional storms which struck Europe, and in particular France, in December 1999

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the exceptional violence of the storms which severely affected the territory of several European Union Member States between 24 and 28 December 1999, causing more than 100 deaths, 88 of which occurred in France,
- B. whereas France was particularly affected both by the material damage and the human losses caused by these exceptional storms, which also had similar effects in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy,
- C. having regard to the economic, social and environmental consequences of such a disaster,
 - 1. Offers its deepest sympathies to the families of the victims;
 - 2. Warmly congratulates all the rescue teams and the public services of the countries concerned who are working unceasingly to alleviate the consequences of this disaster;
 - 3. Welcomes the intergovernmental cooperation between the emergency services and the armed forces of the Member States which is making an effective contribution to restoring minimum levels of comfort to the people affected;
 - 4. Questions, on the other hand, the lack of comment by the Commission, which has as yet made no proposal on assisting the victims;
 - 5. Questions also the paradoxical lack of a Community budget line which permits emergency intervention to assist a European Union Member State affected by a serious natural disaster and to give support to national measures to aid the victims and assist reconstruction while the budget provides resources for similar actions when a disaster occurs outside the Union;
 - 6. Registers the scale of the consequences of this disaster on the economy of the regions affected, in particular on tourist and industrial activities and agriculture, fisheries, marine crops and saltwater aquaculture;
 - 7. Stresses the scale of the damage caused in particular for communities on the Atlantic seaboard which were already severely affected by the oil slick resulting from the shipwreck of the oil tanker Erika;
 - 8. Hopes that the Council and the Commission will ease, exceptionally and in an appropriate manner, the Community provisions on competition and aid to undertakings and the provisions on environmentally sensitive areas, in particular Natura 2000, so as to facilitate the reconstruction and relaunch of economic activities;

9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the parliaments of the Member States and the regional councils, general councils and equivalent local authorities of the regions affected.