

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Commission statement

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

by Mrs Ainardi and Mrs Fiebiger

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the hurricanes which devastated France

B5-0031/2000

**Resolution on the hurricanes which devastated France***The European Parliament,*

- A. having regard to the hurricanes which devastated numerous regions of Europe, primarily in France, on 26 and 27 December 1999,
  - B. dismayed at the significant loss of human life caused by this disaster (88 fatalities in France),
  - C. concerned at the exceptionally severe damage to road, air, rail and port infrastructure, the electricity grid and telephone network, homes, school buildings, historic monuments, and to agriculture, forestry and industry in 69 French *départements*,
  - D. whereas the damage has been estimated at more than 10 billion euro,
  - E. having regard to the very large number of victims,
  - F. troubled by the frequency of meteorological disasters which may be linked to changes in climate produced by the impact of human activities on the environment,
- 1. Offers its condolences to the families of the victims and extends its sympathy to everyone affected;
  - 2. Applauds the spirit of solidarity, generosity and fraternity shown by large sections of the public;
  - 3. Pays tribute to the efforts and dedication of public service workers who did their utmost to relieve disaster victims and restore normal conditions (electricity, transport, telephones and other utilities);
  - 4. Calls on the Council and Commission to learn the lessons of this disaster by halting the process of deregulation, and by maintaining and developing the role and the position of public services, particularly in transport, telecommunications, energy and other utilities;
  - 5. Draws the Commission's attention to the exceptional severity of the damage and urges it to show the Union's sympathy by granting emergency aid to the victims; calls for the reinstatement of the budget heading allocating emergency aid in the event of natural disasters in the European Union;
  - 6. Calls on the Commission to increase the Structural Funds for the disaster regions to aid in their reconstruction, particularly the appropriations set aside for rural development, agri-environmental measures and forestry;
  - 7. Urges the Commission to do everything in its power to ensure that the Kyoto commitments are honoured and to increase support for research into the links between pollution and climate disruption;

8. Calls on the EIB to grant interest-subsidised loans for repairs to infrastructure in the disaster areas;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.