

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Mr Bernie

on behalf of the EDD Group

on the oil slick disaster in France

B5-0039/2000

Resolution on the oil slick disaster in France

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 308 (former Article 235) of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Council Directive 98/55/EC concerning minimum requirements for vessels bound for or leaving Community ports and carrying dangerous or polluting goods,
 - having regard to the budget heading for ‘marine pollution and environmental emergencies’,
 - having regard to the Council decision of December 1999 establishing a Community action programme in the field of civil protection¹, and in particular its:
 - 3rd recital: ‘The Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development ... foresees that the Community’s activities will be stepped up in particular in the field of environmental emergencies..’
 - Article 3(2), (a): ‘Individual actions shall be selected primarily on the basis of the following criteria: ... contribution to preventing the risks and damage to persons, property and in so doing environment, in the event of natural and technological disasters’
 - Article 3(2), (b): ‘... contribution to increasing the degree of preparedness of those involved in civil protection in the Member States, in order to increase their ability to respond to an emergency;’
 - Article 3(2), (d): ‘... contribution to improving the means and methods of forecasting, techniques and methods of response and immediate aftercare after emergencies;
 - having regard to the Resolution of 8 July 1991 of the Council and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States on improving mutual aid between Member States in the event of natural or technological disaster,
- A. whereas hundreds of miles of French coastline have been polluted by this massive oil slick,
- B. having regard to the desperate situation of all those whose livelihoods depend on the sea and tourism, in particular fishermen, oyster bed workers, shellfish farmers and traders,
- C. whereas the scale of the environmental disaster, polluting natural open spaces and affecting seabird populations, calls for urgent measures;

¹ OJ L 327, 21.12.1999, p.53
PE 284.589

1. Expresses its solidarity with the groups of people affected by the oil slick disaster, particularly since some of them have been the victims of similar incidents in the past;
2. Calls for the efforts and funds of the European Union to be mobilised as a matter of urgency, in the context of partnership exchanges between the Member States, in order to help:
 - clean up the beaches,
 - assist the business affected in the region,
 - increase storage capacity for the waste oil recovered,
 - provide treatment or recycling facilities for such waste;
3. Calls for a very tight European system rules to be adopted as a matter of urgency on:
 - the use of flags of convenience,
 - controls on ships carrying dangerous or polluting materials,
 - liability of polluters under the 'polluter pays' principle.
4. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the *départements* affected by the disaster are eligible for aid from the Structural Funds;
5. Calls on the Commission and Council to release exceptional Community aid to help restore the areas affected;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the French Government and the local authorities of the areas affected.