

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by the following Members: Grossetête, Hugues Martin, Keppelhoff-Wiechert, Goepel and Scallon

on behalf of the PPE/DE Group

on the storms in the west of Europe

B5-0042/2000**Resolution on the storms in the west of Europe***The European Parliament,*

- A. having regard to the violent storms which struck the west of Europe at the end of 1999 claiming numerous victims, in particular in France, but also in Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy and Ireland,
 - B. having regard to the truly catastrophic amount of damage caused to both public and private infrastructures,
 - C. having regard to the devastation of the forest heritage throughout whole regions,
 - D. having regard to the economic implications of such a natural disaster, with damage already amounting to over EUR 5 billion,
- 1. Expresses its deep sympathy and support for the victims of the storms;
 - 2. Calls on the competent authorities of the European Union to do everything possible to give assistance to the people affected and to support the restoration and reconstruction activities;
 - 3. Calls on the Commission to take account of the special situation now facing the whole forestry sector, and also thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises and farms which have suffered from long periods without electricity and floods;
 - 4. Calls on the Commission to allow the Member States concerned to provide for national aid so they can deal with the damage caused by the storms;
 - 5. Calls on the Commission as part of the Objective 2 structural measures and under Regulation 1257/99 on support for rural development, Chapter VIII, forestry, to grant afforestation aid for the forests affected and devastated by the storm and compensation for the damage caused in the forestry sector;
 - 6. Welcomes the spirit of solidarity shown by the Member States in assisting France to restore its electricity network as quickly as possible;
 - 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.