

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Oral Question B5-0011/2000

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Mrs Attwooll and Mr Busk

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the damage inflicted on the fisheries and aquaculture sector as a result of the Erika disaster

B5-0181/2000**European Parliament resolution on the damage inflicted on the fisheries and aquaculture sector as a result of the Erika disaster**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision setting up a Community framework for cooperation in the field of accidental marine pollution (COM(1998) 769 – C4-0075/1999 – 1998/0350(COD)) and its opinion thereon of 16 September 1999¹,
 - having regard to its earlier resolutions and in particular that of 20 January 2000 on the oil slick disaster caused by the wreck of the *Erika*²,
 - having regard to the international Convention of 18 December 1971 on the establishment of an International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPFC) and its additional protocol of 27 November,
- A. whereas the Maltese-registered *Erika* sank off the Breton coast on 12 December 1999, causing an oil slick of 14 000 tonnes, polluting 400 kilometres of the coast and causing considerable damage to wildlife and to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors,
- B. whereas more than 900 shellfish farms have been forced to close along the coast since the accident,
- C. whereas the coasts of Brittany and Vendée have suffered five serious pollution incidents in the past 25 years,
- D. whereas the wreck, containing 16 000 tonnes of oil lying at a depth of 120 m, presents a serious risk of further pollution,
- E. whereas there is a total of EUR 185 million available for compensation from the shipowner's liability insurer and from the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund 1998,
1. Expresses its solidarity with the people affected by this catastrophe;
 2. Considers that according to the Polluter Pays Principle the owners of the *Erika* and its cargo should acknowledge their responsibility by compensating the victims (by means of their insurance policies and direct payments), financing the clean-up of the areas affected by the disaster, and paying for the ecological damage; considers that this responsibility must cover the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and the enterprises directly linked to these sectors;

¹ Minutes of that sitting, Part II, Item 8.

² Texts adopted of that sitting, Item 2.

3. Calls on the Commission to coordinate and Member States to undertake a risk assessment of the coastline of Europe, including assessments of environmental sensitivity - with a special emphasis on the importance to fisheries - as well as an assessment of traffic patterns;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission and to the governments of the Member States.