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BS-704/00

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

Pursuant to rule of the Rules of Procedure

By Jannis SAKELLARIOU, Max VAN DEN BERG,
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On behalf of the PES group

On nuclear submarines

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the danger of nuclear pollution in the successor states of the former Soviet Union;
 - having regard to the fact that there are now four Russian and two American nuclear submarines lying on the ocean floor; and that at least 507 people have died in accidents on submarines;
 - having regard to its previous resolutions of 11 March 1999, 8 October 1998 and 18 June 1998 on the danger of nuclear pollution in the successor states of the former Soviet Union;
- A. deeply regretting the accident of the Russian submarine Kursk in the Arctic Barents Sea on August 12 and the loss of the lives of 118 seamen;
 - B. deeply concerned about the confusing and inaccurate information policy from the Russian authorities;
 - C. deeply concerned about possible radiation leaks from the nuclear powered submarine and the overall lack of means to store and maintain accurately nuclear material in Russia and other former SU republics;
 - D. deeply regretting the refusal by the Russian authorities to admit the ecological danger posed by at least 110 laid up nuclear submarines with 135 nuclear reactors with spent fuel in 72 submarines whose reactors could poison the Arctic with radioactive material;
 - E. Taking into consideration that the difficult economic situation in Russia makes the existing problem even more critical as maintenance and decommissioning can not be insured;
 - F. Considering that furthermore a large number of American, British and French nuclear submarines are in active service;

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G. Taking into consideration that the British nuclear submarine *Tireless* is anchored since three months in front of Gibraltar after the discovery of a leak in its refrigerating circle and that the British authorities have announced their willingness to repair the submarine in the harbour of Gibraltar, which does not seem to meet the British security requirements;

H. Deeply regretting the lack of information from the British authorities to their Spanish neighbours, who's neighbouring tourist regions are already suffering from a worsening image due to the unclear situation;

1. shares the deep mourning of the Russian people and asks the Russian authorities to extend its sympathies to the relatives of the victims;
2. expresses its hope that the operation launched to recover the bodies of the victims can be completed as quickly as possible;
3. considers the shut down of the two nuclear reactors by the crew a heroic action for which they paid with their lives;
4. calls upon the Russian authorities to take serious the ecological danger posed by disused nuclear submarines in the region and to store them away more safely;
5. urges the Russian authorities to use all recourses available including their own specialists on the subject;
6. taking into consideration that the EU's budget has not the necessary means, calls upon the Council and Member States to reflect upon possibilities to finance assistance to former SU Republics in order to make our common environment safe;
7. Invites all nations who are in possession of nuclear submarines to meet the security standards and in the case of an accident to give immediate and accurate information in order to prevent even greater damage;
8. Insists that the British government informs fully and correctly the Spanish authorities immediately about any project concerning the *Tireless* submarine and that it respects its own security standards;
9. instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the President of Russia, the Russian government and the State Duma.