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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Cristiana Muscardini and Gianfranco Fini

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the floods in northern Italy

European Parliament resolution on the floods in northern Italy

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas as winter approaches, rivers and mountain streams are overflowing their banks, sweeping away whole villages and destroying the work and lives of men and women,
 - B. noting that when the first rains fall many rivers - not only in Italy - are clogged with material carried by the flood waters, including trees which are too easily uprooted from fields and that in many cases the river banks have become unable to contain the waters when rivers are at their highest level,
 - C. whereas types of farming incompatible with the areas at risk, industrial areas built on river banks and the construction of quarries and illegal waste dumps are preventing rivers from overflowing gradually in a natural way,
 - D. whereas such allegedly 'natural' disasters are caused by man, who squeezes every watercourse into a concrete channel, eliminates bends and alters the proper course of rivers, thereby making it more difficult to control high water levels, especially since the climate in Europe has changed,
1. Calls for a hydrogeological plan for the European Union's regions to identify the areas at risk of flooding;
 2. Calls for a directive stipulating a safety margin for building on river banks and imposing a total ban on the establishment of quarries and waste dumps in such locations;
 3. Calls for a risk-prevention plan to restore the environment, give rivers back the space they need to live and suspend spatial planning projects which threaten rivers, lakes and mountain streams.
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.