

13/11/00

Draft resolution

**Presented by FORD, GHILARDOTTI, BERES, COLOM I NAVAL,
NAPOLETANO, READ, BERENGUER, VATTIMO, MARINHO**

On behalf of the PES

On the floods in Europe

B5 - 852/00

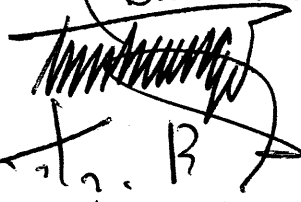
The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the abnormal meteorological conditions and the exceptionally violent storms which recently assailed various parts of Italy, Switzerland, France, Ireland and the United Kingdom,
- B. whereas in Italy many people have lost their lives as a result of the severe weather and thousands have had to be evacuated, in particular in the Alpine valleys; considérant que la Ligurie, la Lombardie et l'Emilie sont à leur tour frappées par les inondations et que plusieurs personnes de ces régions y ont laissé la vie;
- C. whereas in Spain too, torrential rain falling along virtually the entire Mediterranean coastline has so far caused the deaths of five people, together with extensive damage to property,
- D. Considérant que le pays de Galles, la Cornouaille, les comtés du Yorkshire, de Gloucester, du Kent, du Sussex et de Cambridgeshire ont souffert de pluies torrentielles et d'inondations d'une gravité jamais vue depuis 1947, occasionnant de multiples dégâts et la mort de plusieurs personnes;
- E. Considérant que la France a été également frappée par des tempêtes qui ont provoqué la mort de plusieurs personnes dans le Midi et dans les Landes;
- F. Considérant que les inondations ont également sévi en Irlande, y faisant là aussi plusieurs victimes;
- G. having regard to the destruction of homes and certain means of production, the damage caused to the environment, to the agricultural and industrial production process and to SMEs, the loss of jobs and the resulting social and economic implications,
- H. having regard to the particularly precarious situation in which thousands of households now find themselves, having been deprived of electricity, drinking water, telephone links and heating, being cut off from road and rail networks and from basic infrastructures, and having no access to public services,
- I. whereas many of the disaster area qualifies for money from the Community's Structural Funds, in particular the ERDF and the EAGGF Guarantee Section,
- J. Considérant le défi majeur que représentent les engagements pris par l'Union Européenne dans le cadre de Kyoto, afin de réduire de façon significative les émissions de gaz à effet de serre; considérant que la Conférence de la Haye constituera une étape importante dans ce processus;

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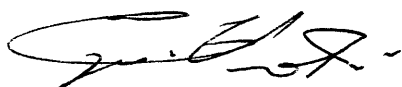
- K.. whereas, owing to the current climate changes, there is a risk of further natural disasters on a similar scale, and whereas this is particularly worrying in the case of mountainous regions on account of the obvious effects which such disasters would have on lowland plains,
- L. Considérant que le territoire de l'Union Européenne n'est pas seul à souffrir de catastrophes de ce type, mais que de nombreuses régions du monde sont victimes d'inondations (Thaïlande, Vietnam, Cambodge, sud du Laos, Japon, Bengale de l'ouest, Mozambique); considérant que la communauté scientifique émet, avec les réserves d'usage, l'hypothèse que ces catastrophes pourraient relever d'un phénomène global de changement climatique;
- 1 Exprime sa solidarité et sa sympathie aux nombreuses victimes des tempêtes et inondations;
 2. Calls on the Commission and all the Member States to waste no time in expressing their support in practical ways, by marshalling workers and equipment under the five-year plan establishing a Community action programme in the field of civil protection, which was adopted by the Council on 9 December 1999 (Decision 1999/847/EC);
 3. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote cooperation on spatial planning in the framework of the Interreg III Community Initiative, giving priority to flood prevention by using natural, low-impact engineering methods in the most affected eligible regions;
 4. Calls on the Commission to apply Article 87(2) of the EC Treaty with a view to granting appropriate financial aid to all sectors affected by the disaster;
 5. Calls on the affected Member States to update their legislation so as to prevent unsustainable spatial planning, infrastructure installation and house-building in hydro-geologically vulnerable areas,;
 6. Calls on the Council and the Commission to take political initiatives designed to strengthen cooperation and action in the field of spatial planning, in accordance with the guidelines of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), particularly in the field of reforestation, agri-environmental measures, sustainable water-basin management and the revitalisation of mountainous areas;
 7. Calls on the Commission to promote suitable initiatives under the LIFE programme with a view to re-establishing a high-quality environment in sensitive areas, and to consider the merits of establishing appropriate support measures for mountainous regions;


8. Welcomes the drafting of Community instruments coordinating the various civil protection systems at European level, in order to make them more readily available and useable in the event of natural disasters;
9. Calls on the local and regional authorities concerned and on the national governments to make the necessary legislative and financial efforts in order to promote the renaturalisation of the most dangerous rivers;
10. Reiterates its view that the European Union and its Member States should again play a leading role in international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and halt climate change, and should implement ambitious measures as part of an overall climate-change strategy;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments of Italy, Spain, France, United Kingdom and Ireland, and the parliaments and leaders of the regional communities involved.

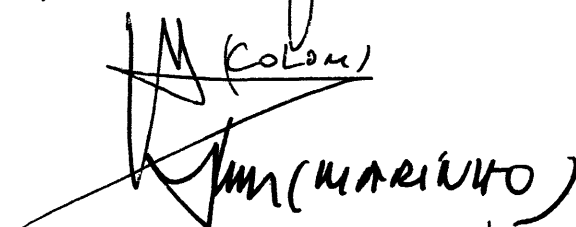
(BERENGUER)

 (Frd)

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 (Reed)