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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance

pursuant to Rule 50(1) of the Rules of Procedure

by Jean-Marie Le Pen, Charles de Gaulle, Bruno Gollnisch, Carl Lang and Jean-Claude Martinez

on behalf of the TDI Group

on the floods in the French département of the Somme

**Resolution on the floods in the French département of the Somme**

*The European Parliament,*

- A. whereas 114 communes in the département of the Somme in France between Amiens and the Bay of the Somme have been flooded,
  - B. whereas 2 800 houses were hit and more than 1 000 people were evacuated and temporarily rehoused,
  - C. whereas the aid released by the French Government (FF 30 million) is a derisory amount in view of the gravity of the situation,
  - D. noting that in the département of the Somme there is no flood prevention plan designed to survey the areas subject to flooding in order to make sure that they are not built on,
  - E. whereas these floods were caused by various factors – exceptionally high rainfall since October 2000 (103 mm fell in April), high tides, the closure of locks (in particular on the Somme canal), the failure to clean the Somme (the dredging budget was reduced by two thirds over fifteen years), the silting up of the Bay of the Somme and the authorities' failure to maintain the riverbanks,
  - F. whereas hundreds of people are still being accommodated in mobile homes or modular accommodation units whilst waiting to go back to their homes or have them rebuilt,
  - G. whereas the floods have made it impossible for the firms and workers affected to carry on working,
- 1. Requests that, if part of the valley of the Somme is certified as subject to flooding and therefore should not be built on, the inhabitants should be rehoused in comparable conditions at the expense of the local authorities, who were those responsible for granting planning permission;
  - 2. Welcomes the remarkable work done by the army and civil protection, in particular to provide supplies for the populations affected;
  - 3. Calls for exceptional EU emergency aid under the structural funds;
  - 4. Calls for a flood retention basin to be created in the Bay of the Somme, the river bed and its fossils to be cleaned out, the riverbanks to be strengthened and a third floodgate to be built at Saint Valéry;
  - 5. Requests that in the context of rural development steps should be taken to recreate the embankments, ditches and hedges which were eliminated by intensive farming and the redistribution of land;

6. Expresses its sympathy with those affected by the disaster and condemns attempts to make political capital out of the floods, particularly by the President of the Republic;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.