

12/11/01  
Proposal for a

**Motion for an urgent resolution, according to rule 50 of the EP,  
on the accident in the Gotthard Tunnel of 24.10.2001**

tabled by Marie Anne ISLER-BEGUIN, Reinhold MESSNER, Theo BOUWMAN, Heidi HAUTALA, Paul LANNOYE in the name of the Greens/EFA in EP

BS-718/01

The European Parliament,

- A. shocked by the terrible truck accident of 24.10.01 in the Gotthard Tunnel, where more than ten persons losted their lives and referring to similar accidents in 1999 in the Tauern and MontBlanc Tunnels, where more than 50 persons died in similar tragic circumstances,
- B. expressing it's regret to the victims of this accident and their families and friends,
- C. considering the EU-action plan on road safety until end 2002 and the new Transport White Paper COM(2001)370,
- D. taking notice of insufficient harmonisation of safety rules and controles in the liberalised road freight transport market of the EU,
- E. Conscient that many potentials for transfer of freight transport to safer rail and sea ports are not not exhausted yet,
- F. Aware of the concerns of the inhabitants of the TransAlpine region with regard to road safety and ecological destruction by road transport,
- G. stressing the transport chapters of the Alpine Convention and the Agreement of the EU with Switzerland,
- 1. Expresses it's concern that similar accidents in long tunnels should be excluded in the future;
- 2. Calls on the governments of Switzerland, France and Italy not to re-open the Gotthard and Mont Blanc Tunnels for trucks as long safety is not sufficiently garanteed;
- 3. Urges the Commission, the Council and the Member States, to accelerate and intensify their decisions and measures on improving actions and controles on road freight safety (including social standards) and to exclude any illegal practices in this sector, undermining safety as fair intra- and intermodal competition;
- 4. Demands the Commission to accelerate it's in the new White Paper announced proposal for higher level safety standards of tunnels;
- 5. Calls on the Commission to boost urgently an action programme on transport prevention and modal shift of freight transport towards safer rail and Italian sea ports;
- 6. Supports the approach of sustainable freight transport, as provided in the Alpine Convention and the Agreement between Switzerland and EU, underlining that this is a good basis for the development of for the enironment sustainable transport policy in the entire transAlpine sensitive area;

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