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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Inés Ayala Sender, Rosa Miguélez Ramos, María Isabel Salinas García and  
María Sornosa Martínez

on behalf of the PSE Group

on drought in Spain

**European Parliament resolution on drought in Spain**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 2 and 6 of the EC Treaty, under which environmental protection requirements must be integrated into Community policies in various areas, with a view to fostering environmentally sustainable economic development,
  - having regard to Article 174 of the EC Treaty,
  - having regard to the Commission report on climate change and the European water dimension,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas southern Europe, and particularly the Iberian Peninsula, has suffered from many severe droughts in the last few years,
- B. whereas the effects of the current drought in Spain come on top of the severe losses suffered by the Spanish farming sector as a result of the frosts that occurred in January, February and March 2005,
- C. whereas the rainfall recorded to date is the lowest for the past 20 years in Spain, standing at 50% of the usual average rate; whereas this is having a direct effect on the process of desertification and erosion of farmland and is seriously affecting arable and stock farming and the processing industry,
- D. whereas the extreme drought has resulted in an alarming rise in the risk of forest fires; whereas in some autonomous communities the fire-risk level is fast approaching the maximum; and whereas high temperatures and no rain are forecast for the coming months,
- E. whereas the weather-related losses incurred by Spain's arable and stock farming sector were enormous during the frosts, and whereas the authorities are currently in the process of assessing the impact of the drought,
1. Urges the Commission to adopt appropriate flexibility measures for the annual management of the products affected, so as to:
- ensure that the full amount of the agricultural aid due to arable and stock farmers is paid in advance;
  - mobilise, where appropriate and in accordance with Community legislation, cereals from Community intervention stocks resulting from surpluses in other Member States;

2. Alerts the Commission and Council to the immediate need for funding to be made available and resources marshalled so as to ensure that effective preventive action may be taken against the escalation of forest fires that is another serious consequence of the lack of rain;
3. Calls once again on the Commission and Council to review the eligibility criteria and the measures that may be funded under the Solidarity Fund, so as to enable the fund to be used in response to situations of this kind, in which adverse weather conditions have a serious impact on rural communities;
4. Urges the Commission carefully to study the phenomenon of drought with a view to determining its periodicity or cyclical nature and whether it is a further indicator of the effects of climate change, and to assess its impact on erosion and desertification;
5. Notes with interest the recent Commission report on the global phenomenon of climate change and its direct effect on ecosystems and the water cycle, together with the measures put forward with a view to facilitating management by those responsible for water policy at EU level; urges the Commission, in this connection, to give thought to the setting up of a European drought monitoring centre;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Spanish Government and the regional and local authorities in the areas affected.