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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the floods in Central European countries, in particular Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary

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on behalf of the ECR Group

European Parliament resolution on the floods in Central European countries, in particular Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 3 of the Treaty on EU and Articles 191 and 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU,
 - having regard to the Commission proposal on regulation establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund (COM(2005)0108) and European Parliament resolution of 18 of May 2006 on Natural Disasters (fires, droughts and floods),
 - having regard to the directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 r. on the assessment and management of flood risks,
 - having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social committee and the Committee of the Regions — Flood risk management — Flood prevention, protection and mitigation (COM(2004) 472 final),
 - having regard to its resolutions from 5 September 2002 on floods in Europe, of 8 September 2005 on natural disasters (fires and floods) in Europe and of 7 September 2006 on forest fires and floods, as well as its resolutions from 18 May 2006 on natural disasters – environmental, agricultural and regional development aspects,
 - having regard to the white book Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action and EC Communication and the Communication from the Commission on a Community approach on the prevention of natural and man made disasters (COM(2009)0082),
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas an extensive natural disaster in the form of flood, caused by a combination of exceptionally unfavourable atmospheric conditions took place over Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia, and brought many casualties and the necessity to evacuate tens of thousands people,
- B. whereas the flood caused excessive damage to public infrastructure (roads, waterways, electrical grids, sewage systems and telecommunication networks), commercial areas, industry and rural zones, destroying also cultural and environmental heritage; whereas the damage to waterway and sewage systems, in particular, may be dangerous to public health,
- C. whereas, due to floods in the past few years, this region of Europe has repeatedly experienced social and economic loss and loss to local economies, production and tourism,

- D. whereas the natural disaster which occurred makes it impossible for local inhabitants to resume their normal lives, and its economic and social outcome will have long-lasting effects,
- E. whereas it is necessary to clean and rebuild the flooded areas and to recreate its production capabilities and to recompensate the social costs caused by the disaster,
- F. whereas natural disasters cause extensive economic and social consequences for regional economies, industry, tourism, environment and biodiversity,
- G. whereas the idea of European solidarity should bring about real and substantial help in the times of need,
1. Expresses great sympathy and solidarity with the regions touched by the disaster; is deeply worried with the grave economic consequences and gives its condolences to the relative of those who died;
 2. Pays its tribute to the search and rescue teams, which worked without rest to help people and diminish the human and material losses;
 3. Commends the actions taken by these Member States which declared their bilateral help to regions touched by the floods; is especially satisfied that among these was the Balt Flood Combat group, co financed by one of the EU projects;
 4. Expresses its view that national, regional and local authorities should focus more on prevention policy and pay more attention to adequate regulations on use of terrain, water management and effective risk management with regard to, among others, security dikes, agriculture and forestry;
 5. Calls on the Member States to revise and update the existing plans of flood management and the maps of flood risks, including the potential influence of climate on floods;
 6. Calls on the European Commission to prepare necessary regulations that would enable to better manage the catchments of areas encompassing Member States;
 7. Having that in mind, calls on the Member States and regions affected by the floods to prepare sustainable plans of reconstruction and re-cultivation of the destroyed areas; calls on the Member States to consider the necessity of long-term investments focusing on prevention policy and restricting the damage caused by natural disasters;
 8. Expresses its view that the consequences of such disasters not only touch particular states, but need real engagement on the European level according to the rule of solidarity, which is especially important in the context of flood risk management;
 9. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to support all individuals who are touched by the economic and social consequences of the disaster;
 10. Calls on the Commission – as soon as it receives all necessary applications from the interested Member States – to immediately make all the efforts in order to implement the most elastic and highest possible financing from the European Union Solidarity Fund;
 11. Calls on the Commission to take the most flexible stance in moving resources between

programmes and priorities and in making decisions on fund granting when implementing financing from the European Union Solidarity Fund;

12. Calls on the Commission to take into account the specific nature of various regions touched by the flood, so that they could obtain the most efficient help;
13. Calls on the Commission to make an exceptional case and allow public financial assistance to enterprises and farmers in the areas touched by the disaster to be granted by Member States, alongside the aid from the European Union Solidarity Fund;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States and local authorities of the regions touched by the disaster.