



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Plenary sitting

26.6.2013

B7-0321/2013

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

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

on recent floods in Europe
(2013/2683(RSP))

**Constanze Angela Krehl, Mojca Kleva Kekuš, Vladimír Maňka,
Kerstin Westphal, Peter Simon, Pavel Poc**
on behalf of the S&D Group

**European Parliament resolution on recent floods in Europe
(2013/2683(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Articles 177(1), 191(1) and 196(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the Commission proposal for a regulation establishing a European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) (COM(2005)0108) and to Parliament's position of 18 May 2006¹,
 - having regard to its resolutions of 5 September 2002 on floods in Europe², of 8 September 2005 on natural disasters (fires and floods) in Europe this summer³, of 18 May 2006 on natural disasters (forest fires, droughts and floods) – agricultural aspects, regional development aspects and environmental aspects⁴, of 7 September 2006 on forest fires and floods⁵, and of 17 June 2010 on the floods in central European countries, in particular Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, and in France⁶,
 - having regard to the Commission White Paper entitled 'Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action' (COM(2009)0147) and to the Commission Communication on a Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters (COM(2009)0082),
 - having regard to the Commission Staff Working Document entitled 'Regions 2020 – an assessment of future challenges for EU regions' (SEC(2008)2868),
 - having regard to the statement by the Commission on the major natural disaster which occurred in the autonomous region of Madeira on 24 February 2010 and to its resolution of 11 March 2010 on the major natural disaster in the autonomous region of Madeira and the effects of the storm 'Xynthia' in Europe⁷,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas a major natural disaster has occurred, in the form of flooding, in various Member States of the EU;
- B. whereas this disaster has caused serious damage, including to infrastructure, businesses and arable land, has also destroyed elements of natural and cultural heritage, and has created public health risks;

¹ OJ C 297 E, 7.12.2006, p. 331.

² OJ C 272 E, 13.11.2003, p. 471.

³ OJ C 193 E, 17.8.2006, p. 322.

⁴ OJ C 297 E, 7.12.2006, pp. 363, 369 and 375.

⁵ OJ C 305 E, 14.12.2006, p. 240.

⁶ OJ C 236 E, 12.8.2011, p. 128.

⁷ OJ C 349 E, 22.12.2010, p. 88.

- C. whereas sustainable reconstruction of the areas destroyed or damaged by the disaster must be undertaken in order to rectify the economic, social and environmental losses;
- D. whereas the frequency, severity, complexity and impact of natural and man-made disasters across Europe has increased rapidly in recent years;
1. Expresses its empathy and solidarity with the inhabitants of all those European regions affected by the disaster; takes due note of the serious economic, social and environmental effects, and pays its respects;
 2. Acknowledges the relentless efforts made by the civil protection units to save lives and reduce damage in the affected areas;
 3. Applauds the actions of the Member States and the regions that provided assistance to the areas affected, as European solidarity is exemplified by mutual assistance in adverse situations;
 4. Calls on the Commission, the Member States and the regions affected to increase the capacity of prevention, flood-control and drainage infrastructure in order to prevent or limit the damage caused by extreme rainfalls;
 5. Calls on the Commission, following the submission by national and regional authorities of their respective reconstruction plans, to take steps immediately to ensure that the financial resources needed to remedy the impact of the disaster are disbursed as swiftly, effectively and flexibly as possible by the EUSF;
 6. Calls on the Commission to immediately table a revised, simplified draft EUSF regulation, which would enable pre-financing under this regulation;
 7. Urges the Commission to mobilise the EUSF; asks the Commission to support the possibility of redeployment from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund in the affected Member States and regions aiming to eliminate the damage;
 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and regional and local authorities of the affected areas.