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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0404/2022**

12.9.2022

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the consequences of drought, fire and other extreme weather phenomena:  
increasing the EU's efforts to fight climate change  
(2022/2829(RSP))

**Veronika Vrecionová, Alexandr Vondra, Pietro Fiocchi**  
on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on the consequences of drought, fire and other extreme weather phenomena: increasing the EU's efforts to fight climate change (2022/2829(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission communication of 18 July 2007 entitled ‘Addressing the challenge of water scarcity and droughts in the European Union’ (COM(2007)0414), and the Commission communication of 24 February 2021 entitled ‘Forging a climate-resilient Europe – the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change’ (COM(2021)0082),
- having regard to its resolution of 9 October 2008 on addressing the challenge of water scarcity and droughts in the European Union<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to its resolution of 17 September 2020 on the European Year of Greener Cities 2022<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to the UN Population Division’s ‘World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision’,
- having regard to the UN Population Prospects,
- having regard to continuous and regular reports by the Joint Research Centre’s Global Drought Observatory (GDO) of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service,
- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the planet has experienced an explosive population increase over the last century, accompanied by a myriad of measures, changes in our lifestyle patterns, including enlargement of urban areas, and greater pressure on resources;
- B. whereas it is essential to ensure food and water security;
- C. whereas it is essential to ensure energy security, noting that the reduced stored water volume has had negative impacts on the energy sector for both hydropower generation and cooling systems of other power plants;
- D. whereas bad management practices and measures have been implemented in the past, with a devastating impact on soil water retention, such as: straightening of rivers and/or concreting of riverbeds, intensifying land use, and desiccating of ponds and wetlands;
- E. whereas the seasonal precipitation deficit has affected some river discharges across Europe and the severe drought seasonally affected some regions of Europe; whereas this

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 9 E, 15.1.2010, p. 33.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 385, 22.9.2021, p. 167.

was accompanied by heatwaves from May 2022 onwards;

- F. whereas water and heat stresses have reduced summer crops' yields, the most affected crops being grain maize, sunflowers and soybeans;
  - G. whereas certain adaptation is key to the long-term global response, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability;
  - H. whereas Europe had a record-breaking forest fire season in the summer of 2022, with approximately 660 000 hectares of forest lost;
  - I. whereas the EU Civil Protection Mechanism has been activated 11 times this year for wildfires across Europe and, thanks to the unprecedented solidarity shown by Member States, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre has coordinated 33 deployments of firefighting planes and 8 deployments of helicopters;
  - J. whereas the new common agricultural policy (CAP) provides for various types of interventions for water-related issues;
- 1. Expresses its deepest sympathy for and solidarity with the families of those who were victims of the droughts, water scarcity and fires this year and with the inhabitants of the devastated areas, and salutes the dedication of the full-time and voluntary firefighters, rescuers and members of the public who attempted to rescue people and prevent the spread of fires, often risking their own lives;
  - 2. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take long-term drought prevention and coping measures, including for water conservation, lake renewal, leakage prevention, the re-use of safe waste water, more use of drought-tolerant forage, crops and varieties for all types of production, and other more water-efficient alternative methods of food production, particularly plant breeding and its new methods;
  - 3. Welcomes the agreement reached at the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Reinforcing Wildfire Preparedness and Response by the EU Member States and the Commission on the four action points:
    - (i) to accelerate the close cross-border cooperation and the establishment of the new permanent rescEU fleet of aerial firefighting capacities by exploring an advanced procurement of helicopters,
    - (ii) to expand the existing seasonal European safety net of firefighting planes by financing the inclusion of additional helicopters and light aircraft, in particular in central and northern Europe, as of summer 2023,
    - (iii) to reinforce the seasonal pre-positioning of ground teams to wildfire hot spots,
    - (iv) to operationalise a plan of action for fire prevention and preparedness;
- underlines the need to rapidly step up prevention, preparedness and response capacities for forest fires, both at national level and within the framework of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism;

4. Stresses that early warning systems are critical to effective adaptation, particularly in relation to wildfires and floods, but are not available to a large part of the world; supports the World Meteorological Organization's early warning services initiative and hopes that it will be implemented swiftly in order to save lives and habitats; encourages the Member States to share early warning system technology;
5. Calls for efforts to be made to harmonise the JRC GDO's data reporting and statistics to enable effective comparability;
6. Calls on the Commission to consider a better use of resources with a view to reducing the impact of droughts on citizens and all stakeholders, such as industry, agriculture and tourism;
7. Supports the urban greening and biodiversity initiatives aimed at ensuring energy and economic stability and security; supports every public and EU initiative on cooling measures that have a positive impact on urban microclimate and health, in particular for children and vulnerable groups, and also supports all the necessary actions to renovate public spaces with the aim of increasing energy savings;
8. Calls on the Commission to respect the different starting conditions of the Member States (geographical, industrial, water, food, etc.) as well as their energy needs;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.