

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

*Session document*

12 April 2000

B5-0390/2000 }  
B5-0391/2000 }  
B5-0393/2000 }  
B5-0394/2000 }  
B5-0397/2000/RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Daul, H. Martin and Redondo Jiménez, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group  
Savary and Gebhardt, on behalf of the PSE Group  
Auroi and Isler Béguin, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group  
Ainardi, Fiebiger and Jové Peres, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group  
Thomas-Mauro, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B5-0390/2000)
- PSE (B5-0391/2000)
- UEN (B5-0393/2000)
- Verts/ALE (B5-0394/2000)
- UEN (B5-0397/2000)

**on the economic consequences for the forestry industry in Europe of the recent storms**

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PE 290.424/  
PE 290.425/  
PE 290.427/  
PE 290.428/  
PE 290.431/ RC1  
Or. fr

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Article 30 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF),
  - having regard to its resolution of 20 January 2000 on the recent storms in Europe<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the Commission Communication of 12 January 2000 on the consequences of the storms in Europe, the statements by the Commissioner responsible for regional policy, Mr Barnier, in particular to the European Parliament on 18 January 2000, and the letter sent by Mr Prodi, President of the Commission, to Mr Jospin, the French Prime Minister, on 21 February 2000,
  - having regard to the EU's undertakings at the Kyoto Convention concerning climate change,
- A. having regard to the considerable scale and geographical extent of the damage caused by the exceptional storms of 25 and 27 December 1999 in the forests of the Union Member States,
  - B. having regard to the significant number of jobs both directly and indirectly dependent on the forestry sector and to the economic and social consequences of these storms for SMUs in the sector,
  - C. having regard to the multiple functions of forests in the economy of many regions, for the quality of life, tourist development, agricultural planning and the maintenance of biological diversity,
  - D. having regard to the sudden glut and the resulting downward pressure on domestic prices suffered by the entire European forestry industry following the placing on the market, under exceptional circumstances, of a volume of timber estimated at three or four times the normal annual production in certain countries,
  - E. whereas the seriousness of the consequences is partly due to the undesirable effects of forest monocultures,
  - F. whereas in some regions, on the one hand, the accumulation of timber exposes stands of conifers to serious fire risks and threatens to impede speedy reforestation and, on the other hand, the fallen timber is liable to become unsuitable for marketing because of damage by bark beetles, small wood parasites which cause irreparable damage to it,
  - G. having regard to the obstacles to exports outside the EU which the costs of long-distance transport pose for certain common species,

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<sup>1</sup> 'Texts adopted' for that date, Item 3

- H. having regard to the vital need to clear windfalls and windthrows as quickly as possible, and under difficult technical conditions, on the one hand in order to forestall the risks of disastrous fires, and, on the other, to allow for swift reforestation and the rebuilding of the natural environment,
- I. having regard to the economic countershock which the primary and secondary processing industries, deprived of local resources at reasonable prices, will suffer over the next few years,
1. Calls on the Commission to inform it of the measures taken and the EU appropriations committed, thus far, with a view to encouraging:
    - the rapid use of the stands of timber affected by the storms;
    - fair compensation for foresters in order to facilitate repairs to stands of timber and their prompt reforestation;
  2. Calls on the Commission to apply the relevant Treaty provisions with a view to authorising, on an exceptional basis, the granting of suitable financial aid to the forestry sector;
  3. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to introduce European regulation of the timber market, adapted to these circumstances, as soon as possible, with a view to arranging the clearance and sale, as a matter of priority, of windfall timber on the internal market and to facilitate its storage and transport, particularly in the case of the less noble timbers;
  4. Calls on the Commission to seek from the World Trade Organisation a derogation authorising it to grant exceptional financial aid for the transport to third countries of, in particular, the most vulnerable timbers which must be felled and marketed quickly;
  5. Calls on the Commission to monitor the effective implementation, as a matter of priority, of the provisions of Article 30 of the above-mentioned Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 with a view to implementing all appropriate measures to support the rebuilding of the forestry production potential damaged by the storms of 25 and 27 December 1999;
  6. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the DOCUPs, CSFs and national development plans for the implementation of the Structural Funds for the period 2000-2006 include priorities, programmes and measures to support the forestry sector and the primary and secondary timber processing industries in a manner consistent with their current and future problems;
  7. Calls for reforestation policy to be based on respect for native species, the diversity of ecosystems and the quality of the rural landscape and on the need to diversify the outlets of the wood industry;

8. Calls on the Commission to introduce appropriate instruments to enable the Union to intervene effectively to deal with accidental or natural crises within the Union;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Parliaments of the Member States.

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