

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

*Session document*

25 October 2000

B5-0807/2000 }  
B5-0810/2000 }  
B5-0819/2000 }  
B5-0820/2000 }  
B5-0821/2000 }  
RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Giuseppe Nisticò, Jas Gawronski, Francesco Fiori, Giorgio Lisi, Guido Podestà, Michl Ebner, Antonio Tajani, Mario Mantovani, Gerardo Galeote Quecedo and Maria del Pilar Ayuso González, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Pasqualina Napoletano, Valter Veltroni, Fiorella Ghilardotti, Gianni Vattimo, Bruno Trentin, Elena Ornella Paciotti and Luis Berenguer Fuster, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Luciano Emilio Caveri, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Monica Frassoni, Giorgio Celli, Reinhold Messner, Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Nelly Maes and Gorka Knörr Borràs on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Cristiana Muscardini, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Francesco Fiori and others (B5-0807/2000),
- UEN (B5-0810/2000),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0819/2000),
- PSE (B5-0820/2000),
- ELDR (B5-0821/2000),

on the floods in Italy and in Spain

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PE 297.068}  
PE 297.072}  
PE 297.091}  
PE 297.092}  
PE 297.093} RC1

## European Parliament resolution on the floods in Italy and in Spain

*The European Parliament,*

- A. having regard to the abnormal meteorological conditions and the exceptionally violent storms which recently assailed various parts of northern Italy (in particular Alpine valleys) and also affected Switzerland and France,
- B. whereas in Italy at least 25 people have lost their lives as a result of the severe weather and thousands have had to be evacuated,
- C. whereas in Spain too, torrential rain falling along virtually the entire Mediterranean coastline has so far caused the deaths of five people, together with extensive damage to property,
- D. having regard to the destruction of homes and certain means of production, the damage caused to the environment, to the agricultural and industrial production process and to SMEs, the loss of jobs and the resulting social and economic implications,
- E. having regard to the particularly precarious situation in which thousands of households now find themselves, having been deprived of electricity, drinking water, telephone links and heating, being cut off from road and rail networks and from basic infrastructures, and having no access to public services,
- F. whereas much of the disaster area qualifies for money from the Community's Structural Funds, in particular the ERDF and the EAGGF Guarantee Section,
- G. whereas some of the damage caused by the natural events in question could have been prevented by means of a proper long-term preventive regional-planning policy covering both water basins and the surrounding mountainous areas, and whereas such a policy has not yet been fully implemented,
- H. whereas an increase in the levels of greenhouse gas emissions in most of the Member States runs counter to the commitments made by the European Union at Kyoto and whereas, according to a report by the European Environment Agency, it is likely that EU emissions of such gases will increase by 6%,
- I. whereas, owing to the current climate changes, there is a risk of further natural disasters on a similar scale, and whereas this is particularly worrying in the case of mountainous regions on account of the obvious effects which such disasters would have on lowland plains,
- J. having regard to the recent natural disaster which struck the Ionian coast of Calabria on 10 September 2000 and caused many deaths at a campsite in Soverato as a result of the mountain torrent Beltrame bursting its banks,

1. Expresses its sympathy and its full support for the victims' families and for the people (and

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PE 297.068}  
PE 297.072}  
PE 297.091}  
PE 297.092}  
PE 297.093} RC1

their communities) affected by the disaster;

2. Calls on the Commission and all the Member States to waste no time in expressing their support in practical ways, by marshalling workers and equipment under the five-year plan establishing a Community action programme in the field of civil protection, which was adopted by the Council on 9 December 1999 (Decision 1999/847/EC);
3. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote cooperation on spatial planning in the framework of the Interreg III Community Initiative, giving priority to flood prevention by using natural, low-impact engineering methods in the most affected eligible regions;
4. Calls on the Commission to gather together emergency funds in order to assist those affected by the natural disaster in question and to combine the funding provided by the national and local authorities with what is available under the social and economic cohesion policy and the common agricultural policy, in particular by marshalling a significant proportion of the funds allocated to rural development, pursuant to Article 33 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);
5. Calls on the Commission to apply Article 87(2) of the EC Treaty with a view to granting appropriate financial aid to all sectors affected by the disaster;
6. Calls on the affected Member States to update their legislation so as to prevent unsustainable spatial planning, infrastructure installation and house-building in hydro-geologically vulnerable areas, and calls on the competent Italian authorities to ensure that up-to-date maps of their country's at-risk areas are drawn up;
7. Calls on the Council and the Commission to take political initiatives designed to strengthen cooperation and action in the field of spatial planning, in accordance with the guidelines of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), particularly in the field of reforestation, agri-environmental measures, sustainable water-basin management and the revitalisation of mountainous areas;
8. Considers that in Italy, as in other EU countries, environmental and conservation policy must constitute a priority in government action and that steps must continue to be taken in order to devise and implement compulsory projects for improving land use and preventing risk;
9. Calls on the Commission to promote suitable initiatives under the LIFE programme with a view to re-establishing a high-quality environment in sensitive areas, and to consider the merits of establishing appropriate support measures for mountainous regions;
10. Welcomes the drafting of Community instruments coordinating the various civil protection systems at European level, in order to make them more readily available and useable in the event of natural disasters;
11. Calls on the local and regional authorities concerned and on the national governments to make the necessary legislative and financial efforts in order to promote the renaturalisation of

the most dangerous rivers;

12. Reiterates its view that the European Union and its Member States should again play a leading role in international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and halt climate change, and should implement ambitious measures as part of an overall climate-change strategy;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments of Italy, Spain and France and the parliaments and leaders of the regional communities involved.