

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

15 November 2000

B5-0851/2000 }
B5-0852/2000 }
B5-0866/2000 }
B5-0867/2000 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Nirj Deva, Geoffrey Van Orden, Gerhard Hannan, Avril Doyle, John Walls Cushnahan, John Joseph McCartin and Dana Rosemary Scallon on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Glyn Ford, Proinsias De Rossa, Fiorella Ghilardotti, Pervenche Bères, Joan Colom i Naval, Pasqualina Napoletano, Imelda Mary Read, Luis Berenguer and Gianni Vattimo on behalf of the PSE Group
- Jean Lambert, Jillian Evans and Marie Anne Isler Béguin on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Sylviane Ainardi, Mihail Papayannakis, Luigi Vinci and Laura González Álvarez on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Cristiana Muscardini, Sergio Berlato, Gianfranco Fini, Mauro Nobilia, Francesco Turchi, Adriana Poli-Bortone, Roberta Angelilli, Mariotto Segni, Gerard Collins, Jim Fitzsimons, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Brian Crowley, Liam Hyland, Niall Andrews and Nicole Thomas-Mauro on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0851/2000),
- PSE (B5-0852/2000),
- PPE-DE (B5-0866/2000),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0867/2000),

on the floods in Europe

RC\425583EN.doc

PE 297.778}
PE 297.779}
PE 297.793}
PE 297.794} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the floods in Europe

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the abnormal meteorological conditions and the exceptionally violent storms which recently assailed various parts of Europe, resulting in many tragedies,
- B. having regard to the widespread destruction caused by violent storms in the United Kingdom and Ireland, especially in Yorkshire, south-east England, East Anglia, Wales, Cornwall and the West Midlands, and along the south-east coast of Ireland and parts of Leinster and Munster,
- C. whereas in Italy, not only the Alpine valleys but also Liguria, Lombardy and Emilia have been hit by flooding, and Spain and France have suffered from violent storms,
- D. having regard to the destruction of homes, energy, communication and transport networks and many 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. 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% by 2010,
- F. whereas the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently reviewed its forecasts of an average temperature increase of 1.5 to 6°C by 2100 (instead of 1.5 to 3.5°C) and confirmed that human-induced climate change is actually occurring in view of the catastrophes of this type across the world (for example in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Laos, West Bengal, Japan, Mozambique),
 - 1. Expresses its sympathy concerning the distress and damage caused to victims in all the affected areas;
 - 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 to make use of all existing funds (for example the ERDF, EAGGF Guarantee Section, etc.) which have already been assigned for its use in dealing with disasters of this nature, to provide financial aid to SMEs, farmers, households, the elderly and others affected – particularly those living in exposed areas who have limited protection – as recompense and as assistance towards a speedy recovery;
 - 4. 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 authorities to ensure that up-to-date maps of their country's at-risk areas are drawn up;

5. Calls on the Council and the Commission to take 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;
6. Considers that 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 projects for improving land use and preventing risk;
7. 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 affected regions;
8. 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;
9. Considers that Europe is currently experiencing the impact of climate change and that action is urgently needed at local, national and international level in order to counter its effects;
10. Reiterates its view that during the current The Hague Conference on Climate Change, 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;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy, Spain and France and the parliaments and leaders of the regional communities involved.