

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

14 February 2001

B5-0093/2001 }
B5-0094/2001 }
B5-0095/2001 }
B5-0131/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Arlindo Cunha, Carlos Coelho and Mary Elizabeth Banotti on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Luís Marinho, António José Seguro, António Campos and Carlos Lage on behalf of the PSE Group
- Ilda Figueiredo, Joaquim Miranda, Marianne Eriksson, Luigi Vinci, Erik Meijer and Armando Cossutta on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Luís Queiró, José Ribeiro e Castro, Gerard Collins and Cristiana Muscardini on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- GUE/NGL (B5-0093/2001),
- PSE (B5-0094/2001),
- UEN (B5-0095/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0131/2001),

on the floods in Portugal

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European Parliament resolution on the floods in Portugal

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas severe weather conditions have battered Portugal this winter, particularly the storms which struck the North and Centre of the country, above all, over the weekend of 26 to 28 January,
 - B. whereas these storms caused loss of human life and great personal suffering, and destroyed or damaged the homes, property and equipment of thousands of families,
 - C. whereas massive material damage has been caused, in the shape of the destruction of transport, industrial and commercial infrastructure, telecommunications and energy networks, and farming, fisheries and economic activity in general have been severely affected,
 - D. whereas the cost of the damage is estimated in billions of Escudos,
 - E. whereas the national and local Portuguese authorities are faced with an enormous task of reconstruction in the regions affected, as well as the need to find immediate solutions to the health and housing problems of hundreds of families and provide support for badly hit economic sectors such as agriculture and trade,
 - F. whereas the Commission has already announced its willingness to commit itself to providing adequate support for tackling the social and economic problems caused by the storm damage,
- 1. Voices its sympathy with the victims' families, and its solidarity with those who have lost their homes and possessions, and all those affected, above all in the river valleys of the Douro, Mondego and Tagus;
 - 2. Praises the efforts made by the various Portuguese bodies involved in helping the flood victims, and particularly the firemen, military units and volunteers' organisation;
 - 3. Calls on the Commission, in collaboration with the Portuguese Government and the local authorities, to provide exceptional financial aid to supplement the funds made available by the authorities in Portugal to tackle the urgent requirements of the worst-hit local populations, rebuild the infrastructures which have been destroyed and help economic activity to recover;
 - 4. Stresses, in line with its previously adopted positions, that the Commission and the Governments of the Member States respond to the urgent need, when emergencies or natural disasters occur, for specific preventive and aid measures which include the provision of adequate human and technical operational resources;
 - 5. Calls on the Member States to respond to the ever more urgent need to reverse the present trend towards the destruction of ecosystems, to undertake long-term environmental repairs, including to rivers and riverbeds, and to irrigation systems, dykes and dams;

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6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, to the Portuguese Government and the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic, and to the local councils concerned.