

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

14 March 2001

B5-0176/2001 }
B5-0190/2001 }
B5-0210/2001 }
B5-0220/2001 }
B5-0228/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Arlindo Cunha, Carlos Coelho, Johan Van Hecke and Regina Bastos on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Luís Marinho, António José Seguro and Margrietus J. van den Berg, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Nelly Maes on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Joaquim Miranda, Yasmine Boudjenah and Jonas Sjöstedt on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Luís Queiró and José Ribeiro e Castro on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- GUE/NGL (B5-0176/2001),
- PSE (B5-0190/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0210/2001),
- UEN (B5-0220/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0228/2001),

on the floods in Mozambique

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PE 301.335}
PE 301.354}
PE 301.374}
PE 303.013}
PE 303.021} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the floods in Mozambique

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 16 March 2000 on the catastrophic storms in Mozambique,
- A. having regard to the severe floods which are once again devastating various regions of Mozambique, in particular the provinces of Tete, Sofala and Zambeze, have caused the deaths of dozens of people and the disappearance of others, have affected around 490 thousand people and made 81 thousand homeless,
- B. whereas the populations concerned are immediately being faced with extremely serious problems, such as shortages of drinking water and food, lack of fuel and the threat of epidemics of cholera or malaria, which can be as deadly as the floods,
- C. having regard to the disappearance of important road and communications infrastructure and energy networks and enormous losses in terms of agriculture and livestock,
- D. whereas since this environmental disaster began many Mozambican villages have been cut off from the outside world and they depend for their survival on emergency humanitarian aid delivered by air,
- E. whereas in the province of Sofala alone all twelve districts are affected and 80% of the roads are impassable,
- F. whereas because of the enormous economic, social and public health problems caused and the weakness of the economy it is impossible for the Mozambican authorities to make an adequate and swift response in order to tackle the present dramatic situation,
- G. whereas Mozambique is one of the most heavily indebted countries in the world and its foreign debt is growing,
- H. having regard to the commitments already made by the Commission and the EU Member States to helping the Mozambican authorities meet the needs of the population, rebuild infrastructure and develop economic activities,
- 1. Expresses its sympathy with the people of Mozambique and backs the efforts made by the authorities and the population to tackle the floods;
- 2. Calls on the European Commission and the Member States to step up the emergency aid to support the Mozambican authorities:
 - by meeting the population's most pressing needs, notably as regards health and

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basic care,

- by providing seeds, since the sowing season will end in two months and without seeds the population will be without food until the end of the year,
 - during the phase of rebuilding, in particular, housing, schools, hospitals and communications and repairing the transport networks, whilst maintaining the cooperation and development programmes already under way;
3. Urges the international community to provide more helicopters and boats and/or the money to buy them, in order to rescue the people who are still isolated;
 4. Calls for the mobilisation of essential international emergency aid and the adoption of economic and financial measures to assist the reconstruction of the affected regions and the recovery of the Mozambican economy, which has been hit so hard, in particular in view of Mozambique's foreign debt;
 5. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to coordinate their aid in cooperation with third countries and multilateral organisations in such a way as to ensure that the aid really achieves its objectives;
 6. Considers that there is an urgent need to set up mechanisms and structures for European and international cooperation to facilitate prompt assistance for the populations affected, by mobilising the extraordinary technical resources currently available for genuinely humanitarian purposes;
 7. Calls on the Member States to draw up, in the Council and together with the Commission, a programme of structural aid to Mozambique, capable of preventing a repetition of these tragic floods every year;
 8. Suggests that any reconstruction project should take account of the need to reverse the current destruction of ecosystems, to bring about a long-term improvement in the environment, including the rivers and their beds, irrigation systems and the development of sustainable agriculture using production methods which avoid erosion;
 9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the parliaments of the Member States, the government and National People's Assembly of Mozambique, the Organisation of African Unity and the UN Secretary-General.