

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

15 May 2001

B5-0382/2001 }
B5-0383/2001 }
B5-0390/2001 }
B5-0391/2001 }
B5-0392/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Françoise Grossetête, Philippe Morillon, Alain Lamassoure and Janelly Fourtou on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Pervenche Berès and Anne Ferreira on behalf of the PSE Group
- Sylviane H. Ainardi on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Jean-Charles Marchiani on behalf of the UEN Group
- Yves Butel on behalf of the EDD Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0382/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0383/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0390/2001),
- EDD (B5-0391/2001),
- UEN (B5-0392/2001),

on the floods in France

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European Parliament resolution on the floods in France

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the severe climatic conditions and the torrential rain which has fallen in France, in particular the Somme region, where the rainfall was three times the normal level between October 200 and April 2001,
 - B. whereas dozens of communes were submerged and thousands of people evacuated,
 - C. having regard to the seriousness of the damage caused to infrastructure, crops and housing, currently totalling hundreds of millions of euros,
 - D. whereas the damage directly affects families and their property, but also businesses (craftsmen, SMEs, industries and farmers) and the countryside,
 - E. concerned at the frequency of climatic disasters, which may be linked to the climate changes caused by pollution,
1. Expresses its feelings of solidarity with all the people affected;
 2. Welcomes the show of solidarity and the efforts made to assist the victims of the floods, especially on the part of the public authorities, politicians, public services, firemen, soldiers and volunteers;
 3. Welcomes the Commission's undertaking to introduce flexible measures for farmers, especially as regards sowing;
 4. Calls on the Commission to grant, in agreement with the French Government and the local authorities, exceptional financial aid to supplement the appropriations earmarked by the French authorities to meet the urgent needs of the communities hardest hit, to restore the destroyed infrastructure and help to relaunch economic activity;
 5. Calls on the Commission, therefore, to speed up the payment of the appropriations already programmed under the Structural Funds and to submit to the Council a proposal for a decision to release 'Community aid for the reconstruction of disaster areas';
 6. Calls for the reinstatement of the budget line devoted to emergency aid in the event of natural disasters in the EU;
 7. Calls on the Commission to propose exceptional modifications to the zoning of the flooded regions in the context of the Structural Funds;
 8. Calls on the Member States to reverse the current trend of destroying ecosystems and to preserve them, in particular watercourses, irrigation systems, dikes and dams; also stresses the need to avoid in the future the installing of infrastructure and the building of houses in

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regions at risk from the hydrogeological point of view;

9. Welcomes the creation of Community instruments aimed at coordinating, at European level, the various systems of civil protection, so that they are made more easily available and useable in the event of natural disasters;
10. Notes that Europe is currently undergoing the effects of climate change and that urgent measures must be taken at international, national and local level to combat the effects of this phenomenon; calls on the Commission to make every effort to comply with the Kyoto agreements and to step up research into the links between pollution and climate disturbances;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the French government and parliament, regional and general councillors and the municipalities concerned.