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Session document

5 September 2001

B5-0547/2001 }
B5-0562/2001 }
B5-0569/2001 }
B5-0574/2001 }
B5-0591/2001 }
B5-0600/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra and José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Rosa M. Díez González, Maria Carrilho, Manuel Medina Ortega, Giovanni Claudio Fava and Emilio Menéndez del Valle, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Isidoro Sánchez García and Carles-Alfred Gasòliba i Böhm, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Miquel Mayol i Raynal, Alain Lipietz, Camilo Nogueira Román, Monica Frassoni and Marie Anne Isler Béguin on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Pedro Marset Campos, Joaquim Miranda and Lucio Manisco, 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:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0547/2001),
- ELDR (B5-0562/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0569/2001),
- UEN (B5-0574/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0591/2001),
- PSE (B5-0600/2001),

on the drought in Central America

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PE 308.766}
PE 308.781}
PE 308.788}
PE 308.793}
PE 308.810}
PE 308.819} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the drought in Central America

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Central America, in particular resolution A5-0133/2000 on a Community action plan for the reconstruction of Central America,
 - having regard to the disastrous consequences of the drought which has been affecting Central America for more than three months and has prompted the United Nations to classify the situation as more serious than that caused by Hurricane Mitch,
- A. stressing the worsening of the already difficult human and social situation in the region following the natural disasters it has suffered (Hurricane Mitch and the El Salvador earthquake) and the adverse effect this will have on the prospects for socio-economic development in the countries concerned,
- B. alarmed at the forecasts made by those running the UN World Food Programme (WFP) estimating that more than one and half million people are affected by famine and the exhaustion of food reserves, which could lead to a rapid spread of famine,
- C. whereas, moreover, this is not an isolated climatic phenomenon, but is repeated year after year in Central America, with growing intensity, the link between cause and effect being well established, with climate changes caused by the greenhouse effect and global warming,
- D. noting that faced with this process of chronic deterioration the usual response consists in concentrating, year after year, on the need for emergency food aid in the form of ever larger consignments of foodstuffs, but with few preventive measures aimed at sustainable development projects for the farming populations concerned being carried out by either local government or international aid,
1. Expresses its concern and deep sympathy with the populations and the governments of the countries affected;
 2. Calls on the Council and the Commission to make a rapid assessment of the consequences of the drought and to introduce effective aid mechanisms to help to alleviate the famine;
 3. Calls on the Council and the Commission, when drawing up the 2002 budget, to take into account these special circumstances, to ensure recognition of the financial aid needed to cover the basic needs of the affected populations in the region;
 4. Recommends that the Council and the Commission should consider the cyclical and

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worsening nature of the Central American drought and promote sustainable development policies resulting in a specific programme for agriculture aid measures which will help to prevent drought and deterioration of the environment in the worst hit areas of Central America;

5. Calls on the Commission to urge the governments of Central America to accept their responsibilities in the face of this chronic problem and to adopt public policies aimed at revitalising the rural sectors which are most vulnerable from the social and economic points of view;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the governments of the Central American countries and the Central American Parliament.