
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Report

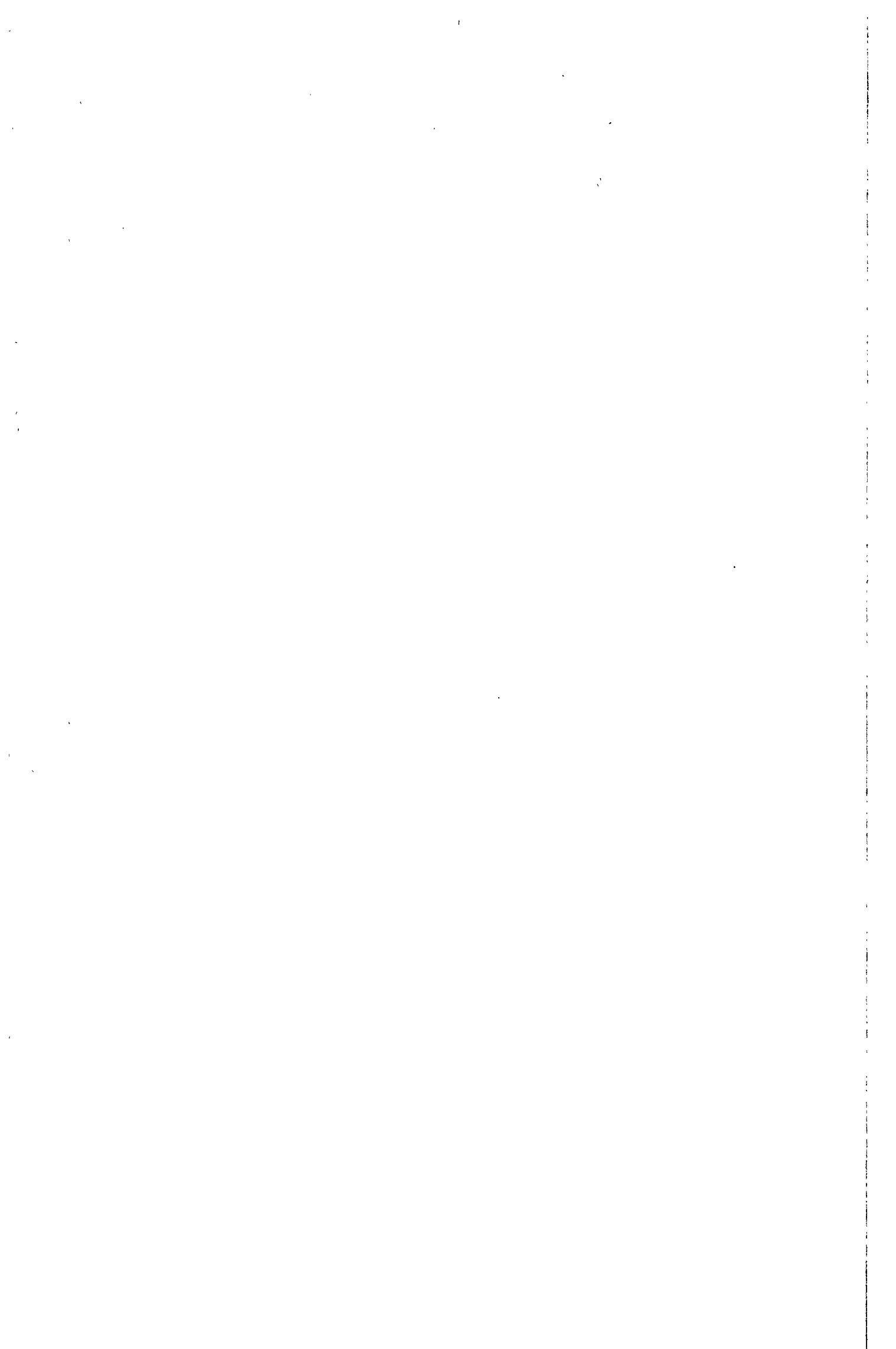
drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the
Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

on the proposal from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-353/79) for a
decision on the conclusion of the Convention on
long-range transboundary air pollution

Rapporteur: Mrs V. SQUARCIALUPI

1.2.1

PE 61.026/fin.



By letter of 24 September 1979 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision on long-range transboundary air pollution.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

On 23 September 1979 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mrs Squarcialupi rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 20 December 1979 and adopted the motion for a resolution unanimously.

Present: Mr Collins, chairman; Mr Alber, Mr Johnson, Mrs Weber, vice-chairmen, Mrs Squarcialupi, rapporteur; Mr Adams (deputizing for Mrs Seibel-Emmerling), Mrs Cassanmagnago Cerretti (deputizing for Mr Verroken), Mr Ceravolo (deputizing for Mr Segre); Mr Clinton (deputizing for Mr Estgen), Mr Ghergo, Miss Hooper, Mrs Krouwel-Vlam, Mrs Maij-Weggen, Mr Martens, Mr Newton Dunn, Mr Remilly, Mrs Roudy, Mr Sherlock and Mrs Schleicher.

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The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision on the conclusion of the Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-353/79),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-635/79),
1. Approves the Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution signed by the European Communities in Geneva on 14 November 1979.
 2. Believes that speedy ratification by the European Communities and the subsequent application of the Convention could make an important contribution towards the campaign against transboundary air pollution, and considers it urgent to follow up this initial effort with other practical measures to protect the environment, including measures transcending national frontiers;
 3. Appreciates the political value of the Convention, which represents one of the most constructive results of cooperation among the signatory States to the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and acknowledges the decisive role played by the UN Economic Commission for Europe in bringing it into existence;
 4. Calls on the executive body set up under Article 10 of the Convention to give priority to the following tasks:
 - (a) the drawing up of a map of plants and factories located in the frontier regions whose system of production may lead to the pollution of the atmosphere;
 - (b) the harmonizing, as soon as possible, of systems for measuring air pollution and the standardizing of monitoring methods;

¹ OJ No. C 281, 10.11.79, p2.

- (c) the coordination of a permanent network of computerized air pollution monitoring equipment in order to obtain up-to-date information on the state of the atmosphere;
 - (d) establishment of air quality objectives especially in frontier regions.
5. Calls on the Commission to propose on behalf of the Community, within two years of the Convention entering into force, appropriate amendments in accordance with Article 12 of the Convention.
 6. Calls on the Commission and the Council to take the necessary steps on behalf of the European Community to ensure that, pending its entry into force, the Convention is applied on an interim basis in accordance with the supplementary resolution of 14 November, 1979.
 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTI. CONTENT OF THE CONVENTION

1. The negotiations culminating in the Convention on transboundary air pollution were conducted under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe as a follow-up to the relevant provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which calls for international cooperation in monitoring air pollution.

2. The European Communities took part in the negotiations on the Convention, which was signed on their behalf on 14 November 1979 in Geneva.

3. The Convention provides for cooperation amongst the signatories, under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and is aimed at aligning national policies and strategies for combating air pollution, thus bringing about a gradual reduction in such pollution. This is to be achieved by an exchange of information, the holding of consultations and the initiation and coordination of research projects on specific subjects.

4. The Convention will enter into force 90 days after the 24th ratification document has been deposited. However, the signatories undertook, in a supplementary resolution, to apply the Convention on a provisional basis before it enters into force officially, so that no time will be wasted unnecessarily.

II. ASSESSMENT OF THE CONVENTION

5. The aims and provisions of the Convention are fully in line with the European Communities' environment policy. In its resolution of 17 May 1977 on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment¹, the Council stressed the importance of transboundary air pollution and the need to bring about a gradual reduction in pollution levels. The Commission was called upon to investigate the possible effects of transboundary air pollution, to promote the exchange of information at international level and where appropriate to submit proposals based on the results of the above exchange of information and investigations and on the work of other international organizations².

¹ OJ No. C 139 of 13.6.1977, para. 50 et seq

² OJ No. C 139 of 13.6.1977, para. 61

6. Ratification of the Convention is therefore in the interests of the European Communities from the point of view of environment policy.

7. Furthermore, the ratification of the Convention is in the general interest of the European people. It is one of the practical results of East-West cooperation based on the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The successful conclusion of the negotiations is proof of the new awareness acquired by all European countries of environmental problems of industrial origin requiring ever closer international cooperation.