

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1982-1983

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16 July 1982

DOCUMENT 1-513/82

### MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs NIKOLAOU, Mr VGENOPOULOS, Mr LAGAKOS,  
Mr PLASKOVITIS, Mr NIKOLAOU, Mrs PANTAZI, Mr MARKOPOULOS,  
Mr PONIRIDIS, Mr PAPANTONIOU, Mr BOURNIAS, Mr KALLIAS,  
Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS, Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU, Mr KALOYANNIS,  
Mr PROTOPAPADAKIS, Mr KAZAZIS, Mr ADAMOU, Mr ALVANOS,  
Mr PAPAGEORGIOU, Mr PESMAZOGLOU and Mr

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the urgent provision of assistance to Greece for  
the repair of the Corinth Canal, which is in danger of  
becoming obstructed through the dilapidation of the  
underwater foundation walls.

The European Parliament,

- A - whereas the Corinth Canal constitutes a nodal point in international marine communications and the fastest sea route both for vessels coming from ports in the Ionian Sea, the Adriatic Sea and South Italy and for those passing through the Strait of Messina bound for ports in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and for those sailing in the opposite direction,
- B - whereas in 1981 alone vessels representing a total tonnage of 4,316,504 passed through the canal, 76% of which belonged to EEC countries,
- C - whereas the Corinth Canal constitutes within the Community an important monument from both a cultural and a technical point of view and has tremendous touristic importance,
- D - whereas the canal has great importance in the context of Greece's regional development,
- E - whereas the occasional falls of earth masses due to the special geological composition of the ground forming the canal walls and to the extensive damage suffered during the Second World War resulted in the canal being closed to shipping, from the time of its construction until 1945, for five whole years, at tremendous expense to Greek and international shipping,
- F - whereas the danger of earth falls has today increased disturbingly owing to the almost total dilapidation of the foundation walls brought about in the course of time by the speed of water at the water-line and below it generated by the passage of shipping,
- G - whereas the canal is 6,343 metres long and throughout its length, on both sides, foundation walls stretch from the bottom, which is 8 metres deep, to 2 metres above sea level, and the greater part of these walls are today dilapidated,
- H - whereas the cost of repairing the damage and the construction of two new and essential bridges is of the order of 70 million ECU, which sum cannot possibly be met from the revenue received by the public corporation operating the canal or by the Greek State,
- I - whereas repair of the actual damage poses certain constructional problems the resolution of which calls for special know-how,
1. Considers it essential that the damage to the canal be repaired as quickly as possible to prevent it becoming completely unusable;
  2. Requests the Commission to propose immediately the provision of the financial aid necessary to implement the programme of repair work;
  3. Requests the Commission to provide the indispensable technical assistance;
  4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council of the European Communities.