

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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DOCUMENT 1-1043/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK, Mr COLLINS and Mrs WEBER

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the use of urea formaldehyde foam for house insulation

PE 82.219

The European Parliament

- A. having regard to the fact that increasing numbers of people in the countries of the European Community are trying to insulate their houses and flats in order to keep heating costs down,
 - B. having regard to the fact that urea formaldehyde foam is very widely used as insulation material for housing and for public buildings, it is injected into the cavity walls where it hardens,
 - C. whereas this foam can affect the health of people living in housing insulated with this material,
 - D. whereas cases are known in various countries of the European Community of people being affected by the gases released when the material disintegrates,
 - E. having regard to the fact that urea formaldehyde foam is banned in both Canada (since 1981) and the United States (since 1982),
 - F. having regard to the fact that formaldehyde gas has been scientifically proved to be carcinogenic to rats¹,
- 1. Asks the Commission to carry out a detailed examination as rapidly as possible of the potential health risks of exposure to formaldehyde;
 - 2. Asks the Commission to investigate not only the potential short-term dangers but also and above all the long-term ones;
 - 3. Asks the Commission to examine whether the concentration of formaldehyde is dependent on temperature fluctuations, humidity changes and seasonal and climatic variations;
 - 4. Asks the Commission to ban the use of urea formaldehyde as soon as it has been proved that the product is in fact toxic;
 - 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

¹ See for example Formaldehyde, JARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Man, Vol. 29, pp. 345-375.