

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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13 DECEMBER 1979

DOCUMENT 1-597/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN, Mr BEUMER, Mrs BOOT,
Mr PENDERS, Mr VON WOGAU, Mr FISCHBACH,
Mr ESTGEN, Mr SAYN-WITTGENSTEIN-BERLEBURG,
Mr LANGES, Mr Konrad SCHÖN, Mr MAJONICA,
Mr HOFFMANN, Mrs MOREAU, Mr D'ORMESSON,
Mr JANSSEN VAN RAAY, Mr VAN DER GUN,
Mr MERTENS, Mr BERSANI, Mr SEITLINGER,
Mr TOLMAN, Mr JONKER and Mr NARDUCCI
on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party
(Christian-Democratic Group)

with request for urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on ~~pollution~~ of the Rhine¹

The European Parliament,

- seriously concerned at the fact that the French Parliament could once again not produce the necessary majority to ratify the Convention on pollution of the Rhine by chlorides,
- understanding that the French Government has repeatedly undertaken to submit the Convention to Parliament for ratification without delay,
- whereas :
 - the Rhine, which is Europe's most important river, is one of the most heavily polluted in the world,
 - various countries of the European Community are dependent on the Rhine for their supplies of water for human consumption, agriculture and horticulture,
 - the pollution of the Rhine by dangerous and toxic substances has assumed such proportions that the drinking water supplies of some twenty million people are threatened (and losses to agriculture and horticulture run into tens of millions of guilders per year),
 - this pollution is largely caused by chlorides, for 40% of which France is responsible as a result of the discharge of potash in Alsace,
 - the various states bordering on the Rhine, including France, already agreed in 1976 in the chloride agreement to limit the discharge of chlorides,
 - France has already received millions of guilders to help it to solve its problems concerning potash discharges in Alsace,
 - the Convention on pollution of the Rhine constitutes a first step towards combating this pollution and more far-reaching measures, such as those proposed in the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of international waterways against pollution, should be taken within the framework of Community environment policy,
- 1. Earnestly appeals to the French Parliament to give evidence of its sense of solidarity and responsibility regarding the protection of the environment within and beyond its frontiers and, in view of the intolerable nature of the situation, to express without delay its willingness to ratify the Convention;
- 2. Requests the Commission to propose, within the framework of the Community policy on the environment, additional and more far-reaching measures to combat pollution of the Rhine;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the governments of the Member States.

JUSTIFICATION

The general concern among states bordering on the Rhine at France's unwillingness to ratify the Convention and the fact that the situation can no longer be tolerated calls for urgent action.

PE 61.778