

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr ROMUALDI, Mr PETRONIO,
Mr ALMIRANTE and Mr BUTTAFUOCO

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on subsidence in Ravenna

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the extremely serious situation in Ravenna, the ancient capital city of the Holy Roman Empire, a historic centre of the utmost importance for the Middle Ages, to which numerous Byzantine and Roman monuments and architectural masterpieces bear witness, such as the Mausoleum and Palace of Theodoric, the tomb of Gallia Placidia, the mosaics of the Basilicas of Saint Appolinaris and Vitalis, a priceless common heritage of European civilization,
- having regard to the fact that the threat to Ravenna and the entire Romagna region is comparable to that affecting Venice, in the saving of which the European Community has already taken an interest, and to the threat hanging over the future of the coasts of many European regions, which has already been brought to the attention of our Parliament in document PE 62.479 drawn up by Mr Cronin,
- having regard to the fact that this subsidence, in other words, the void caused by the disappearance of waters from the subterranean water-bearing strata, has accelerated to such an extent in recent times that, if it should continue at its present rate, a few years would see the beaches and the countryside of the Romagna region being transformed from a tourist and health region of vital importance and interest to Europe into a desolate wasteland, shorn of its natural resources,
- having regard to the fact that the various measures taken both by the Italian Ministry of Public Works and by the Emilia-Romagna regional authorities to speed up the closure of the drainage pits that are fed by these subterranean water-bearing strata have proved inadequate to establish any valid alternative to the exploitation of these subterranean waters, such as, for example, the construction of reservoirs and dams to collect surface waters,

1. Hopes that Community aids can be granted for:

- (a) improving ways and means of acquiring further information about this phenomenon,
- (b) a thorough study of pollution in the entire territory,
- (c) the carrying out of a grid survey of the quality of the environment;

having regard to the fact that subsidence and erosion are not an ecological feature peculiar to the Ravenna area but phenomena that are observable throughout Italy and Europe and evident at the present time in particularly acute form in the entire Adriatic region, and will probably in the near future come to affect in an equally serious form other centres and coasts throughout the Community, the saving of which depends on the understanding and resolve the Community will have to display in promptly and courageously tackling the difficult but basic problems of protecting Ravenna and its coasts and the entire Adriatic coast,

2. invites its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission,