

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (0-170/79)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr CECOVINI

on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Plan to involve the Northern Adriatic
in the European unification process by using
the ports of Trieste and Monfalcone

The Community is faced with two highly topical issues, namely its expansion into the eastern Mediterranean as a result of the forthcoming accession of Greece, and also the energy crisis.

The first problem means that fast transport links with the south will have to be established, and the second that this will have to be done in the most economic way, i.e. with a view to saving energy.

This must be borne in mind when considering the proposal that the natural waterway of the Adriatic Sea be used instead of the existing or planned land routes to the eastern Mediterranean, the Near and Middle East and countries beyond the Suez Canal, by constructing a modern, expanded system of direct road and rail links between Munich and the most northerly ports on the

Adriatic, Trieste and Monfalcone, and by developing these ports as required.

This route would be 2,400 nautical miles, i.e. 5 days' travelling time shorter than the traditional Hamburg-Suez route and would also promote the economic recovery of one of Italy's frontier areas (Friuli-Venezia Giulia), which was hit by the closure of the San Marco Shipyard, Fabbrica Macchine and Vetrobel after the war and is now facing a serious economic and employment crisis.

As the plan would not only solve the above Community problems, but would also be welcomed by the people in the area concerned, and as the EIB has already approved a loan to the IRI (Institute for Industrial Reconstruction) totalling Lit. 27 thousand million for the construction of a 40 km section of motorway from Udine to Carnia as part of the German road link between Munich and Trieste:

1. Is the Commission prepared to recognize that the said project is of Community interest and to finance it appropriately?
2. Does the Commission intend to urge the governments concerned to participate as actively as possible in the future in financing those sections of the project within their territory?