

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1979 - 1980

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22 OCTOBER 1979

DOCUMENT 1-408/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs EWING  
on behalf of the Group of European  
Progressive Democrats

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

on compensation for the disaster affecting  
Orkney and Shetland agriculture

The European Parliament,

- considering that a disaster situation has struck the farmers of the Orkney and Shetland Islands due to excessive rainfall and cold and sunless winters and summers causing ruined harvests for two successive years,
  - considering that production of feed for animals has dropped by up to fifty per cent,
  - considering that freight charges for importing feed to the Orkney and Shetlands Islands are totally uneconomic but have had to be incurred and that farmers have had to reduce livestock numbers and that losses have amounted to £5 million,
  - considering that farmers, including many who left dairying under the conversion scheme, now face a decision of whether to sell their farms unless help is forthcoming,
  - considering that, as the economy of these islands is farming-based, the whole community is affected by this disaster,
  - considering that this disaster is far graver and far more concentrated in area than the snow disaster of last year, for which compensation was awarded,
1. Urges the Commission to make a grant to meet the situation (the criteria for payment to be jointly agreed by the Commission and the National Farmers' Union of Scotland by the same procedure as in the Commission payment of compensation for snow damage in the Highlands of Scotland);
  2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.

JUSTIFICATION

The request for urgent debate is self-explanatory.