

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

14 December 1979

DOCUMENT 1-599/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr MUNTINGH

pursuant to Rule 25 of the
Rules of Procedure

on / peat

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the ever-growing pressure on natural areas, not least within the Community;
 - having regard to the fact that all over the world natural areas are shrinking and this trend continues unabated;
 - having regard to the need for the Community to take adequate measures for the conservation of natural areas;
 - considering that this is best achieved by instituting the most extensive safeguards possible for natural areas;
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Flanagan (Doc. 1-503/79);
1. Draws attention to the possibility that yet again extensive natural areas could disappear as a result of large-scale peat-cutting in the Community, particularly in certain parts of Ireland and the United Kingdom;
 2. Draws attention to the fact that in Ireland peat is already being produced in peat moors with an area of 53,000 ha and that, with aid from the European Investment Bank, production is now to be extended to a further 24,000 ha;
 3. Regrets that the European Community, when assessing projects of this kind, has no instruments at its disposal for giving due weight to the important considerations of nature and environment;
 4. Expresses surprise at the fact that the Community grants considerable amounts of financial aid to projects for the prospection and production of coal, hydrocarbons, nuclear energy and uranium ore and for developing thermo-nuclear fusion, while paying relatively far less attention to the consequences of these activities for the natural environment;
 5. Points to the extensive studies which have already been carried out on reports setting forth the effects on the environment and related instruments;
 6. Calls on its appropriate committees to study all aspects of peat-cutting, for instance by producing reports on environmental effects, particularly from the point of view of nature conservancy, with a view to affording full protection to objects of natural importance, and to make proposals on the action the Community ought to take in this sector.