

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1979 - 1980

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14 December 1979

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr MUNTINGH

pursuant to Rule 25 of the  
Rules of Procedure

on the setting up of a North Sea Forum

The European Parliament,

- taking note of the outcome of a North Sea seminar in The Hague on 26 October 1979,
  - concerned about the threats to which the North Sea environment is exposed,
  - aware of the need for integrated planning in the exploitation and management of the resources of the North Sea,
  - agreeing with the Commission that it would 'possibly be ideal if the North Sea area were managed as a single entity',
  - being of the opinion that far too little is known for the pursuance of a cohesive policy and management of North Sea resources,
  - being of the opinion that a North Sea Forum of independent North Sea experts could perform valuable and indeed essential work for the development of a cohesive North Sea policy,
1. Requests the Commission to examine in what way it could contribute to the setting up of an independent North Sea Forum of experts;
  2. Invites the Commission to appoint a steering group of experts to formulate proposals on this subject;
  3. Invites the Commission to make funds available for a secretariat for such a North Sea Forum, which in the initial phase could also serve as the secretariat of the steering group,
  4. Urges the Commission to make as much use as possible of the facilities and experience of independent organizations and/or scientific bodies which have already been active in this field.

Explanatory note

On 25 and 26 October an international seminar was held in The Hague on the problems and the future of the North Sea. At the end of the seminar the 140 participants, from practically all the North Sea states, unanimously adopted a resolution calling for a permanent, independent North Sea Forum to be set up.

The task of the Forum would be to work out a coherent design and policy for the North Sea. Very little information is available in particular on the subject of the interaction between human activities and the relationship between these and the North Sea environment. This is in direct contrast to the enormous quantity of separate data available on various individual sectors.

The need for a coherent North Sea policy has already been pointed to in a question to the Commission tabled by Mr WALTmans (PPR) suggesting that it would perhaps be ideal if the North Sea area were managed as a single entity. However, the Commission felt that these objectives would not be easy to achieve.

The proposed Forum would also have to play a role in developing ideas on the subject.

The form such a Forum ought to take will need to be examined. That is why the resolution asks that first of all a steering group be set up to decide on this question.