

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr GAUTHIER and Mr ISRAEL

on behalf of the Group of European Progressive Democrats

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the firewood crisis in the Sahel region of Africa
and the serious implications for the Third World

PE 84.622

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the scourge of deforestation which is afflicting the Sahel in particular, where consumption of firewood for heating and cooking results every year in the loss of 12 million hectares of tropical forest,
- B. whereas firewood is virtually the sole source of energy and economic resource of a population of more than 100 million people, for example in Upper Volta, where firewood provides 97% of the energy consumed,
- C. having regard to the exponential increase in the consumption of firewood and the resulting desertification, which is affecting the entire Sahel, condemning the population to famine in the medium term,
 - 1. Is extremely concerned at the serious disequilibrium caused by this phenomenon in the development, energy supply, agriculture and ecology of the Third World countries affected, especially in Africa and Asia;
 - 2. Emphasizes that this phenomenon is threatening the survival of 100 million people;
 - 3. Considers that emergency measures are necessary;
 - 4. Calls on the Community to release the appropriations necessary for immediate aid and for the implementation of a plan of action within the framework of development policy;
 - 5. Proposes that, with a view to reducing the consumption of firewood, the Community should supply to the countries concerned improved wood stoves to replace open fires;
 - 6. Stresses that such an investment, equivalent to the cost of constructing a medium-sized dam (around \$100 million) would enable two million stoves to be installed and would save one million hectares of forest;
 - 7. Calls on the Commission to submit appropriate proposals to the Council as soon as possible;
 - 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Governments of the Member States.