

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

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DOCUMENT 1-885/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr PAISLEY, Mr J.D. TAYLOR, Sir Fred CATHERWOOD,
Mr HUME, Mr O'DONNELL, Mr FLANAGAN and Mr HUTTON

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on measures to assist islands such as Rathlin Island off the
County Antrim Coast, Northern Ireland which are under threat
of being abandoned

PE 87.185

- A. having regard to the preambles of the Treaty of Rome and the ERDF Regulation,
- B. whereas the Community has an obligation to strive for the harmonious development of economic activities in its regions,
- C. having regard to the regional problems encountered in islands in general and in particular to those encountered in remote islands with relatively small populations and poor transport connections such as Rathlin Island off the County Antrim Coast in Northern Ireland,
- D. whereas Rathlin Island had over a thousand inhabitants at the turn of the century and now has only about one hundred and could eventually have to be abandoned if immediate steps are not taken to
 - i) establish regular transport links with the mainland and
 - ii) improve infrastructures and social services on the island itself,
- E. whereas other island communities find themselves in a similar predicament,
- F. having regard to the Harris Report on the problems of peripheral maritime regions and islands,
- 1. calls on the Commission to carry out a detailed study on the social, economic and cultural situations in the Community's islands and to come forward with appropriate proposals on the basis of this study for the revitalisation of island economies;

2. suggests in this connection that the Commission should come forward with proposals for an EEC Islands Charter which sets down minimum Community requirements on the provision of public transport links and essential infrastructures and services: (including such things as the provision of emergency helicopter services);
3. urgently requests the Commission and United Kingdom Government to reach an agreement on an ERDF grant for the construction of essential infrastructures, piers and slipways, for an all-weather ferry service between Rathlin Island and the mainland and for the purchase of the appropriate ferry boat;
4. repeats its request for Community participation in Road Equivalent Tariff pilot projects and suggests that priority should be given to ferry services to islands which are under the greatest threat of abandonment;
5. requests its President to forward this Resolution to the Council, the Commission and the United Kingdom Government.