

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr DE CLERCQ and Mr DE GUCHT

on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group
pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on the need to establish stocks of strategic
materials in the European Community

The European Parliament,

- convinced of the urgent need to establish a genuine European energy policy,
- whereas energy and raw materials are essential to the functioning of European industry,
- whereas Europe depends to a large extent on the third world for its supplies of raw materials,
- whereas a great many sources of strategic materials tend to be concentrated in particular areas (for example, the Community is 99-100% dependent on external sources for its supplies of magnesium, platinum and vanadium which are situated mainly in South Africa and the USSR),
- whereas a number of commercial and political factors could jeopardize the Community's supplies of raw materials,
- whereas the protection of shipping lines is insufficient in itself to guarantee supplies of raw materials (Doc. 1-697/80),
- whereas it is necessary to develop at the same time an effective raw materials policy in the European Community,
- whereas the establishment of a strategy on raw materials must involve an attempt, at European level, to stimulate the development of our own resources and the recycling of raw materials,
- whereas the blocking of supply sources would have serious economic and social consequences in Europe,
- convinced of the need to adopt measures now to guard against the possibility of vital European industries being paralyzed in the event of an embargo on raw materials,

1. Considers therefore that:

- (a) the European Community must establish stocks of important strategic materials, as it has already done in the case of oil;
- (b) the European Community must encourage European firms to establish private stocks of raw materials;

2. Calls on the Commission to draw up a raw materials programme, taking account of Parliament's proposals as set out above;

3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in political cooperation.