

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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DOCUMENT 1-909/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs LE ROUX and Mrs POIRIER

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on the dumping of chemical wastes off the coast
of Brittany

PE 81.921

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Oslo Convention of 15 February 1972 on the prevention of marine pollution by the discharge of waste at sea by boats or aircraft,
 - having regard to the London Convention of 29 December 1972 on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping,
 - having regard to the Council Directive of 4 May 1976 on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community,
 - having regard to the European Coastal Charter drawn up by the Conference on peripheral maritime regions (6-8 October 1981),
- A. Whereas the dumping of chemical or radioactive wastes off the coast of Brittany and in the Bay of Biscay seriously endangers the living resources of the sea and thus the economic life of these coastal regions,
- B. Whereas the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland in particular are responsible for these discharges, which have serious repercussions,
- C. Whereas the United Kingdom Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has authorized the dumping of chemical wastes in a maritime zone directly opposite Brittany for a six-month period,
1. Notes that the legal instruments provided for in the abovementioned international agreements do not adequately prevent such attacks on the marine environment;
 2. Notes that, despite the provisions of Article VII of the London Convention of 29 December 1982, the contracting parties have not devised any procedure to prevent dumping in the high seas, in this case in the Atlantic;
 3. Takes a serious view of the decision of the United Kingdom Government to authorize the dumping of noxious chemical wastes despite the provisions of Article IV of the London Convention and its annexes;
 4. Calls for an end to the dumping of any toxic substances - whether chemical or radioactive - at sea;
 5. Calls on the countries whose vessels regularly use Atlantic shipping routes off the coast of Brittany and in the Bay of Biscay to forbid and combat the dumping of any chemical products in those waters,

6. Calls for the introduction of a surveillance system, for which the Community could take the initiative to protect the environment of the Atlantic Ocean from the high seas to the territorial waters of the Member States,
7. Calls on the Commission to assume the role of coordinator vis-à-vis existing international organizations with a view to reinforcing the legal instruments available for preventing and penalising pollution of the high seas by chemical products;
8. Calls on the Commission to submit to the next Environment Council proposals for bringing the marine environment of the Atlantic, under control.

