

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

17 April 1980

DOCUMENT 1-106/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr JOHNSON, Mr SIMPSON, Mrs WEBER,
Mr PRICE, Mr PRAG, Mr NEWTON-DUNN, Miss ROBERTS,
Miss HOOPER, Miss FORSTER, Mr SPICER, Mr MARSHALL
and Mr COLLINS

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure on
Community trade in seal products and in particular
in products deriving from the 'whitecoat' pups of
harp and hooded seals (*pagophilus groenlandicus* and
cystophora cristata)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and in particular to Articles 100 and following relating to the trade and commerce of the Community,
- having regard also to the decisions of the Council establishing the Community programmes of environment and consumer protection,
- considering that large numbers of harp and hooded seals (*pa ophilus groenlandicus* and *cystophora cristata*) which inhabit the drifting pack ice of the North Atlantic, from Baffin Bay in the west to the White Sea in the east, are harvested each year,
- considering that all harp and hooded seal products in international trade come from Canada, Norway or Greenland,
- considering that for 1977 the figures are as follows:

Skins taken by	- <u>Canada</u>	<u>Norway</u>	<u>Greenland</u>	<u>Total</u>
Harp seals	118,706	56,682	2,804	178,192
Hooded seals	6,063	21,438	3,066	30,567
				<u>208,759</u>

- considering the methods used (e.g. clubbing) in the harvesting of these seals and the fact that substantial numbers of whitecoats (i.e. a harp seal, less than 10 days old which has still not lost the soft white fur it was born with) and bluebacks (i.e. a newborn hooded seal with blue 'fast' fur) are involved,
- considering that the Member States of the Community are major consumers of seal products, such as coats, shoes and bags, mocassins, belts, wallets and novelty items e.g. key cases, purses, seal dolls and cigar cases,
- considering that the trade in seal products is carried out by companies based within the Community and in particular in the U.K., Denmark, France and Germany,

calls upon the Commission

1. To propose measures designed to regulate international trade in seal products and to prohibit entry into the Community of:
 - (a) any products coming from seals which have not been humanely killed
 - (b) any products coming from seal species whose stocks are recognized as being imperilled;
2. To propose a total ban on all imports into the Community of products from 'whitecoat' or 'blueback' seals; and on all intra-Community trade in such products;
3. To negotiate with other countries involved in the trade in such products, in particular with Norway and Canada, with a view to achieving international action along the lines suggested in this resolution.