

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

7 SEPTEMBER 1982

DOCUMENT 1-590/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs THEOBALD-PAOLI, Mr EYRAUD and Mr GLINNE
on behalf of the Socialist Group

with request for topical and urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on saving Mediterranean forests and urgent measures
for regions seriously affected by persistent drought

The European Parliament,

- A - having regard to the provisions of the motion for a resolution 1-326/79 by Mr L00 adopted on 28 September 1979,
- B - having regard to the statements made by the Commission representative to the Committee on Agriculture on 13 July 1982 in answer to a question by Mr EYRAUD,
- C - having regard to the Community regulations on agriculture and other matters which make provision for such situations,
- D - conscious of the wealth represented by the Mediterranean forests for the economy, environment and way of life of the regions of Southern Europe,
- E - noting that the Mediterranean forests have been more seriously affected than ever by the increase in fires since the beginning of 1982 because of the persistent drought,
- F - having regard to the climatic and rainfall conditions prevailing in certain regions in the south of Italy, France and Greece since the beginning of 1982,
- G - recalling that in the French department of Var alone 10,000 hectares of forest were destroyed by fire in 3 days and that the rainfall over the last three years has produced a deficit equivalent to one year's rainfall (1.5 metres of water) and that this has had disastrous consequences for agriculture and the down stream industries and resulted in a diminution of water reserves for combating fires,
- H - whereas the extent of the damage caused by fires this summer to our common heritage of forests in Southern Europe (Var and Corsica having been particularly affected) cannot leave the members of a united Community indifferent and necessitate emergency aid from the Community to the regions affected,
- I - noting, moreover that the Community's Mediterranean forests extend from the French coast to Italy and Eastern Greece and that the pooling of protective resources over this large area would be beneficial for each of the regions involved,

- J - noting that European action for the protection of Mediterranean forests would constitute correct and suitable application of Article 235 of the Treaty of Rome,
- K - whereas, moreover, because of this lack of rainfall in many French departments, harvests of fodder, cereals and other crops have been reduced to a disastrous extent,
- L - whereas in consequence the financial difficulties of farmers in these regions will increase in the coming months and whereas in a large number of cases the purchase of fodder or substitutes will be inadequate or impossible and for this reason sales of livestock will be inevitable,
1. Requests the Commission to grant emergency aid to Var, Corsica, and all the regions devastated by the forest fires this summer in order to compensate the victims and swiftly to replace fire-fighting equipment, in particular stocks of retardess;
 2. Asks it to grant aid to supplement national and local aid to farmers in the French departments concerned, some of whom have been deprived of their income as a result of the disasters;
 3. Requests it to make a survey in three months of the resources available in the Community for fighting forest fires and for reafforestation and of the requirements as regards the organization of preventive measures;
 4. Requests it to submit a proposal for a programme for acquiring supplementary funds for the purpose of combating fires; these funds could be administered by a body common to the regions concerned under the supervision of authorized community or inter-state bodies;
 5. Suggests that it should encourage cooperation between all the Mediterranean countries affected by this problem;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States and the applicant countries.

