

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982 - 1983

11 October 1982

DOCUMENT 1-665/82

REPORT

Drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the
Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

on the ~~ratification~~ by the European Parliament of
the Barcelona Convention on the pollution of the
Mediterranean

Rapporteur: Mr A. BOMBARD

PE 80.318/fin.

By letter of 8 January 1982 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision concluding the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention of 1976 for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources.

On 21 January 1982 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection as the committee responsible.

On 24 February 1982 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mr BOMBARD, rapporteur.

It considered the Commission's proposal and the draft report at its meeting of 21 September 1982.

At its meeting of 21 September 1982 the committee unanimously decided to advise Parliament to approve the Commission's proposal without amendment.

The committee then unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Collins, chairman; Mr McCartin, vice-chairman; Mrs Weber, vice-chairman; Mr Bombard, rapporteur; Mr Alber, Mr Berkhouwer, Mr Ceravolo (deputizing for Mr Spinelli), Mr Del Duca, Mr Eisma (deputizing for Mrs Spaak), Mr Forth, Mr Ghergo, Miss Hooper, Mrs Krouwel-Vlam, Mrs Lentz-Cornette, Mr Mertens, Mr Muntingh, Mr Petersen (deputizing for Mrs Pantazi), Mr Remilly, Mrs Schleicher, Mrs Seibel-Emmerling, Dr Sherlock, Mrs Squarcialupi and Mrs van Hemeldonck.

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A

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision concluding the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention of 1976 for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(81) 780 final)¹
 - having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-937/81),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-665/82),
- A. considering that an effective pollution control policy is necessary to protect the common European asset which the Mediterranean represents;
 - B. noting that the Final Act of the Barcelona Convention has been ratified by almost all the riparian states of the Mediterranean;
 - C. considering that it is urgent for the European Community to ratify the Protocol on the prevention of land-based pollution;
1. Emphasizes the importance of fighting pollution in the Mediterranean Sea;
 2. Approves the Commission's proposal.

¹OJ No. C 4 of 8.1.82, p. 3

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTBACKGROUND

1. On 16 February 1976 the Convention of Barcelona on the protection of the Mediterranean against pollution was signed.
2. The riparian states of the Mediterranean involved were: Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Yugoslavia.
3. The following sent observers: USA, United Kingdom, USSR.
4. The United Nations was represented by numerous bodies including the Economic Commission for Europe, the UN Development Programme and the UN Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization.
5. This Convention was followed by protocols signed in Geneva on 5 and 10 February 1979.
6. A protocol was added to the Barcelona Convention on 12-17 May 1980 on the fight against land-based pollution of the Mediterranean in preparation for a conference of the riparian states in Athens, which took place from 12-17 May 1982. During this conference the protocol was signed by the Commission of the European Communities.
7. A final act on the protection of the Mediterranean was drawn up on 12 January 1978 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean area. The final act was ratified on 12 February 1978 at the seat of the United Nations in New York. All the Member States of the Barcelona Convention ratified the final act in May 1980 with the exception of Albania.

8. The European Parliament is now asked to deliver an opinion on the ratification of the Third Protocol by the European Community.

POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

9. The Mediterranean is a reference sea, a semi-closed sea, densely populated in its northern (European) part. It is also widely industrialized in the developed countries (Spain, France and Italy) and in the process of being industrialized in the developing countries using pollutant raw material (Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco).

10. The Mediterranean is a sea with a European calling. As well as being industrialized, it is a privileged area for tourism. This necessitates a healthy environment.

11. As long as the pollution of the Mediterranean was an organic and therefore degradable pollution, it was tolerable subject to certain conditions as regards the location of sewage outlets.

12. Industrial pollution is not degradable and is cumulative; it therefore tends to give rise to a dangerously polluted coastal and infra-coastal zone.

13. The fact that the Mediterranean is a semi-closed sea means that its waters are renewed extremely slowly (a process taking about 90 years).

14. It is urgent for the European Community

- (a) to accede to the Barcelona Convention, to the Geneva protocols and to the New York final act and the protocol of the final act;
- (b) to develop its own techniques for limiting pollution of the Mediterranean and to take part with the riparian countries in the work of depollution;
- (c) there can be no effective depollution of the sea without depollution of the rivers which flow into it. The European Community must therefore contribute to the depollution of the rivers which flow into the Mediterranean.

