

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

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DOCUMENT 1-489/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs EWING on behalf of the Group of
European Progressive Democrats

with request for urgent and topical debate

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on fisheries policy

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The European Parliament,

- whereas the July fisheries Council meeting failed to reach agreement on fisheries matters and agreed to continue the herring ban until their September meeting,
 - whereas the herring ban was imposed in the interests of fish conservation and in accordance with fishery scientists' advice to permit this scarce species to be built up,
 - whereas the herring ban called for great sacrifice on the part of herring fishermen and imposed severe economic hardship on them,
 - whereas the Commission on the day following the fisheries Council meeting called for Member States to end the ban and to agree to accept Council recommendations on total allowable catches without warning,
 - whereas the Commission's action caused chaos as :
 1. an armada of herring boats at once caught a vast tonnage,
 2. marketing machinery was unprepared and the bulk of the precious species went for fish meal and much was dumped at sea,
 3. monitoring procedure failed and stocks built up for years were endangered in several weeks,
 - whereas the Commission's action raises the legal question of whether the Commission exceeded their powers in overruling the Council and the constitutional question of the relationship between the Commission and the Council,
 - whereas the Commission's action caused economic chaos to the vital fishing industry and the possible destruction of a scarce species of fish,
- I. Therefore calls on the Parliament to condemn the Commission's attitudes.