

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

15 DECEMBER 1980

DOCUMENT 1-724/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr PRAG, Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS, Mr PURVIS,
Miss ROBERTS, Mr SELIGMAN, Mr C. JACKSON,
Mr HARRIS, Lady ELLES, Mr HORD, Miss HOOPER,
Mr COTTRELL, Mr BATTERSBY, Mr MØLLER,
Mr PROUT, Mr HUTTON, Miss BROOKES,
Mr SPENCER, Mr WELSH, and Mr MARSHALL,
on behalf of the European Democratic Group, and
Mr BEYER de RYKE, Mr CALVEZ, Mr MICHEL,
Mr CECOVINI, Mr POTTERING, Mr BOCKLET,
Mr DALSSASS and Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI

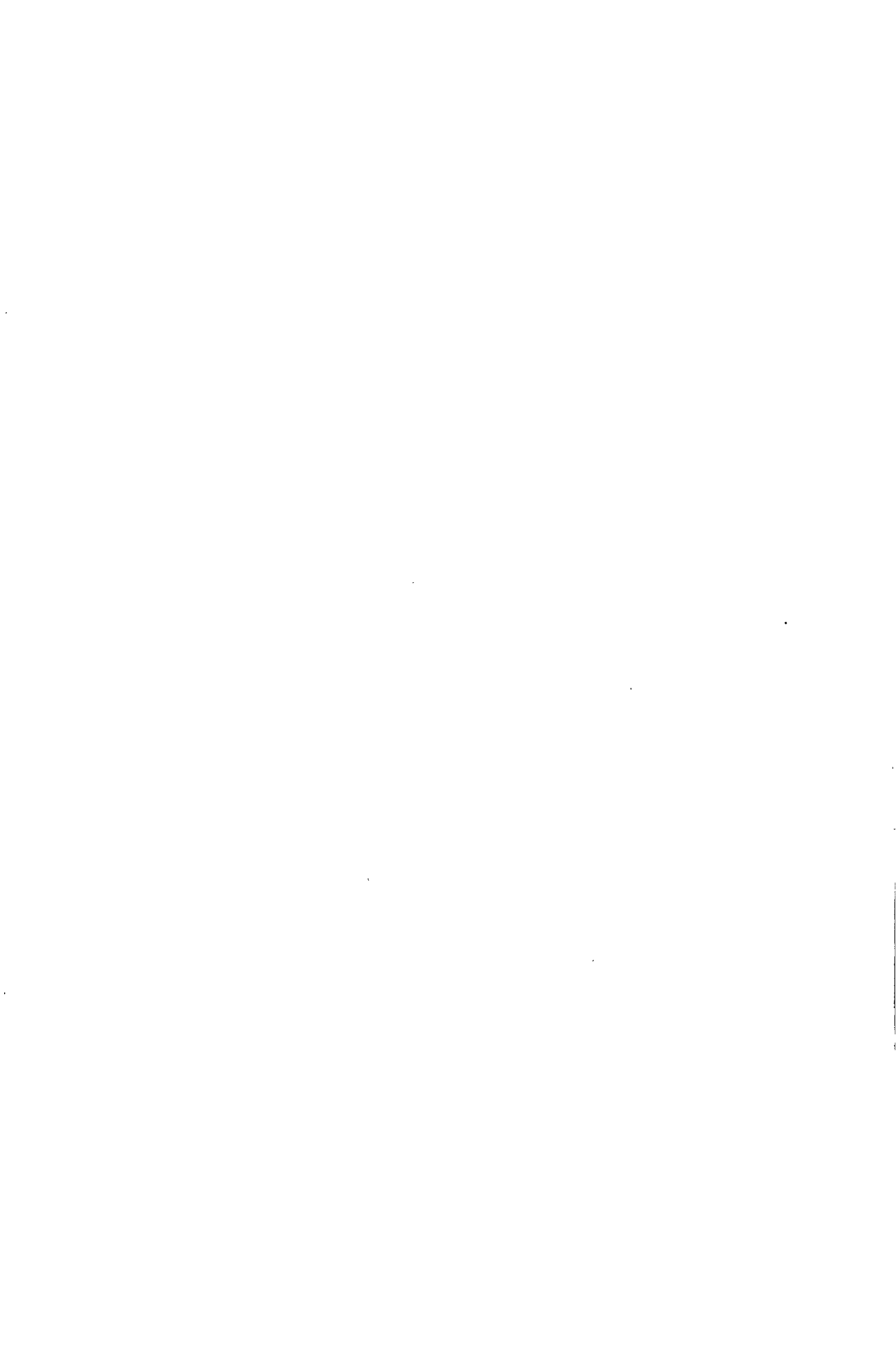
with request for urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the earthquake in Italy



The European Parliament,

- appalled at the magnitude of the earthquake which has occurred in Southern Italy, and the human suffering and damage to every form of amenity which it has caused,
 - convinced that this disaster proves once again the need for European Community action to cope with disasters beyond the capacity and resources of any single Member State, and that, had the means of such action existed, the suffering caused could have been greatly mitigated,
 - believing that, in all past experience, the greatest shortcoming in dealing with disasters of this kind is in the organization and distribution, rather than in the provision, of money and supplies,
 - convinced therefore that the European Community is the only non-military body able to organize the necessary emergency relief,
1. Welcomes the Commission's action in voting funds for emergency aid to Italy;
 2. (a) Urges the Commission and the Member States to ensure sufficient supplies of medicines, food and all materials necessary for providing shelter for the homeless in the earthquake area;
(b) Calls on the Commission to make proposals as to how the Community can assist most effectively in reconstruction of the disaster area;
 3. Urges the Member States to set up immediately a European Disaster Relief Force, consisting essentially of a transport force of earmarked defence units, properly trained and equipped, and coordinated by a staff from the Member States, to be made available at the request of the government concerned;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, and the governments of the Member States.



JUSTIFICATION

On each occasion when there is a major disaster, much unnecessary suffering occurs in the initial stages because no adequate civilian organization exists with the technical equipment and transport needed to deal immediately with the emergency and, in particular, to move relief supplies and transport speedily from the nearest airports and seaports to the disaster area.

It has almost invariably taken several days, and frequently weeks, for the necessary transport facilities to be mustered and for adequate relief supplies to be delivered to the disaster area.

Another disaster can occur at any time and in any country. The shortcomings outlined above must not be allowed to recur. That is why action is needed immediately.

