

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr RUFFOLO, Mr CARIGLIA, Mr LEZZI,
Mr ARFE', Mr DIDO', Mr FERRI, Mr GATTO, Mr ORLANDI,
Mr PELIKAN, Mr PULETTI, Mr RIPA DI MEANA, Mr ZAGARI,
Mr GLINNE, Mr SUTRA, Mr COLLA, Mr LYNGE,
Mr MOTCHANE, Mr WOLTJER, Mr VERNIMMEN, Mrs FUILLET,
Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL, Mr DANKERT, Mr ALBERS, Mr BUCHAN,
Mr JAQUET, Mr COHEN and Mrs FOCKE

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

on the earthquake in southern Italy



The European Parliament,

- having regard to the scale and gravity of the disaster which has struck two regions of the Italian Mezzogiorno,
 - placing on record the sincere expression of its deep solidarity with the people of the stricken areas and with the whole Italian population and Government,
1. Notes that the European Council has decided to make available through a supplementary budget for 1980 40 million units of account for the benefit of the Italian Government by way of emergency financial aid to assist the citizens affected by the earthquake;
 2. Notes that the European Council called upon the Council of Ministers, acting on a proposal from the Commission, to define the details of an extraordinary financial operation designed to make available to the Italian Government financial resources totalling 1,000 million EUA in the form of loans granted by the Community through the NCI and EIB to the Italian Government with an interest rebate of 3% chargeable to the Community budget for investment projects in the stricken regions;
 3. Points out that the total financial charge on the Community budget following these two operations will be in the order of 230 million EUA, i.e. between 2 and 3% of the overall total of the damage which initial estimates set at 10,000 million EUA;
 4. Stresses the need for the measures taken by the European Council to be reviewed in the course of the next few months in order to adjust their total to the true extent of the disaster which has created a formidable new investment problem for the Mezzogiorno;
 5. Requests the Commission and Council to determine at the earliest possible opportunity the procedures for the granting of EIB and NCI loans and the procedural conditions for making them available to the Italian authorities;

6. Considers it necessary, over and above the resources made available in this way, for further Community resources to be directed to the regions stricken by the earthquake through a review of the appropriations already paid out and concentration of appropriations to be paid cut from the Community Funds (Regional Fund, Social Fund and Agricultural Guidance Fund) for use by the Italian Government. To this end a special agreement might be sought between the Italian Government and the Commission, and the 'non-quota' section of the Regional Fund might be suitably extended to enable the procedures for this type of intervention to be applied to projects in the disaster areas;
7. Considers that, to ensure rational use of the Community resources made available to the Italian Government for the benefit of the stricken areas by way of emergency aid, together with the loans with partial interest rebates and the contributions from the structural funds, the actions so financed must be coordinated with other measures financed by the Italian Government;
8. To this end draws attention to the desirability and need for the Italian Government, calling if necessary on the cooperation of the Commission, to draw up a programme for the reconstruction and development of the stricken regions covering as integral parts of the programme all projects financed by the Community or by national resources. The close cooperation which such coordination requires suggests that it might be appropriate to create a body for consultations between the Italian Government and the Commission;
9. Recommends that some of the resources financed by the Community contributions should be used to equip the regions concerned with the technical and planning capacity required to effect the investment projects as quickly as possible and to ensure that substantial resources do not remain unused for long periods;

10. - Calls upon the Commission to ascertain from the Italian Government the type of planning and technical capacity required by the regions concerned by the work of reconstruction and development and in respect of which it might be felt appropriate to call upon external in addition to national resources; similar enquiries should be made in the Community countries to locate experts and engineers able to make their skills available, in cooperation with the Italian experts and engineers, for the formidable planning and implementing task which reconstruction involves;
11. Further invites the Commission to take an initiative to set up a European civil defence service calling upon the capabilities and technical resources of the various countries thus permitting rapid and effective mutual assistance in times of disaster.

Justification of request for urgent procedure

The serious nature of the disaster.

