

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

25 February 1980

DOCUMENT 1-798/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr PETRONIO, Mr ALMIRANTE,
Mr ROMUALDI and Mr BUTTAFUOCO

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on urgent measures to save VENICE

The European Parliament,

- alarmed at the report which has now been confirmed that UNESCO intends to close within the next few months the office opened by it in Venice after the flood on 4 November 1966,
 - stressing that the role of that office was and is to coordinate international, and above all European, participation in efforts to save the admirable artistic heritage of Venice which is suffering severe damage from the 'high water' phenomenon,
 - noting that the special Italian law on Venice provides for compulsory participation at various levels of a UNESCO representative in the various decision-making bodies especially those involved in expenditure and conservation measures,
 - afraid that the closure of the UNESCO office in Venice implies a lack of interest on the part of that world cultural agency in the unsolved problems of Venice,
 - aware also that the failure to find solutions to these problems is largely attributable to bureaucratic delays and obstructiveness;
1. Calls upon UNESCO to review its position so as not to obstruct a legislative instrument which, although it has a great many shortcomings, does nevertheless permit limited practical action;
 2. Takes this opportunity to point out that the Italian law of 1973 (providing for expenditure over a 5-year period of 300,000,000 lire which has in any case undergone substantial devaluation in the meantime) has up to now been applied only on an extraordinarily limited scale;
 3. Points out further that the high water phenomenon which erodes the very foundations of the city was experienced again, with disastrous effects, on 22 December 1979;
 4. Notes the inability of the elected national, regional, and local authorities to take technical measures to counter this extremely serious phenomenon which has occurred again after 13 years with the same disastrous effects on the artistic, social and economic fabric of Venice;
 5. Points to the need for a definitive theoretical and practical decision to be taken without delay on essential measures to control tidal flow in the lagoon together with a decision on the definitive scale of the land reclamation plan;
 6. Calls upon the Council and Commission to consider in this connection the possibility of promoting the foundation of an 'Institute for the Conservation of Venice' and of contributing to its financing having regard to the supranational interest of this city which is unique in the world;
 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.