

# European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## Working Documents

1979 - 1980

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11 FEBRUARY 1980

DOCUMENT 1-751/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VERGES, Mr GREMETZ, Mr PIQUET, Mr WOLTJER,  
Mr DENIS, Mr PONIATOWSKI, Mr COHEN, Mr LOMAS,  
Mr FICH, Mr LEZZI, Mr KUHN, Mr SCHMITT,  
Mr PEARCE, Mr SIMMONDS, Mr SABLE, Mr MOREAU,  
Mr FERRERO, Mr JAQUET, Mr ESTIER, Mrs FOCKE  
and Mrs POIRIER

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

on emergency aid and planned and coordinated aid from  
the EEC to the island of Réunion, which has been  
devastated by hurricane Hyacinth

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the disastrous situation created on Réunion by torrential tropical rains over a period of 10 days and the passage close to the island of Hurricane Hyacinth on 27 January, a disaster which initial estimates show to have been accompanied by a death toll of 22, with 15 persons missing and 7,700 homeless accommodated in public buildings, extensive damage to the precarious housing of the poor population, residential buildings flooded or washed away, damage to the telecommunications system, water supply and sewage networks, total or partial destruction of crops, cattle wiped out or slaughtered for lack of food, etc.,
  - considering that a first official estimate already puts at 400.000,000 Francs (over 68,143,000 EUA) the amount which will have to be injected into the Réunion economy in order to face this situation,
  - considering the need to bring urgent assistance to the stricken population and to participate in the reconstruction of the island's agricultural potential, the repair of its infrastructures and the rehousing of persons living in makeshift and unhealthy accommodation,
  - having regard to the debates as to urgency and substance in September and October 1979 and in January 1980 on aid from the EEC in the wake of Hurricanes David and Frederick in the West Indies and Hurricane Claudette which struck Mauritius,
1. Takes note of the initial emergency measures taken by the Commission (contribution of 300,000 EUA, the maximum possible from the budget at present, and the participation of two representatives in the inter-ministerial mission of the French Government which left for the island on 31 January);
  2. Calls upon the Commission:
    - to make available emergency aid at an appropriate level in the light of the situation report by its representatives, and to ensure that this aid is made over and used as rapidly as possible,
    - to participate in the elaboration and financing of the planned programmes of the French Government with a view to the re-constitution of the Réunion economy through the EAGGF in the agricultural sector, the ERDF for infrastructures and the European Social Fund for low-cost housing, attention being drawn to the permanent risk of erosion in a mountainous tropical country and to the need to protect areas which are already inhabited against flooding in order to cut to a minimum the disastrous consequences of torrential rains and hurricanes;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

JUSTIFICATION