

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

9 JULY 1980

DOCUMENT 1-315/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs CLWYD, Mr CABORN, Mrs SALISCH, Mrs BUCHAN,
Mr MEGAHY, Mr SEAL, Mr LOMAS, Mr BOYES,
Mr ENRIGHT, Mr ADAM, Mr GRIFFITHS, Mr GABERT,
Mr WEBER, Mr MUNTINGH, Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM,
Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING, Mr WETTIG, Mrs VIEHOFF,
Mrs GREDAL, Mr ROGERS and Mr JAQUET
on behalf of the Socialist Group

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

on the dangers of poor hygiene standards in air-
conditioning systems

PE 66.595

The European Parliament,

- noting that medical researchers believe that many outbreaks of illness thought to be minor attacks of influenza are likely to be caused by amoeba breeding in the water reservoirs of air conditioners,
 - noting that the illness is being increasingly recognized as 'humidifier fever' and can be relatively acute or slowly progressive and chronic, causing some cases of fibrosis of the lung, an irreversible disease similar to asbetosis,
 - noting that a Swiss medical research team found that one in four absent sick from work were suffering from respiratory tract infections, such as coughs, colds, sore throats and bronchial problems, and concluded that those working in air-conditioned areas are most at risk,
1. Requests its President to investigate complaints by the staff and Members of Parliament of headaches, breathlessness, throat and general respiratory infections and to establish to what extent these symptoms could result from contaminated air in Parliament's places of work;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.

JUSTIFICATION

There is now evidence to suggest that the organism or bacterium which causes 'Legionaires' Disease', responsible for one death in the last week, has been found in the past in air-cooling or air-conditioning systems.

Since the problem stems from inadequate hygienic maintenance of such systems, the summer recess would provide an opportunity for a thorough investigation of the above complaints.