

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

10 February 1981

DOCUMENT 1-897/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr LYNGE, Mr PETERSEN, Mrs GREDAL, Mrs BOSERUP,
Mr FICH, Mr SKOVMAND, Mr BØGH, Mr NYBORG, Mrs EWING,
Mr VAN MINNEN, Mr COPPIETERS, Mr BLANEY, Mr MUNTINGH,
Mr CRONIN, Mr DAVERN, Ms CLWYD, Mr CAPANNA, Mr MOTCHANE,
Mr FLANAGAN, Mr HUME and Mrs LIZIN

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

on the intolerable pressure brought to bear by one
Member State on another Member State

The European Parliament,

- pointing out that, although no common fisheries policy has yet been established, the German Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries granted licenses on 16 January to four West German ship owners, authorizing them to catch 4,000 tonnes of cod off Eastern Greenland, a unilateral initiative which elicited vigorous protests from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
 - whereas Greenland's cod stocks are in a precarious state, as shown by the fact that in recent years biologists have recommended a TAC of 0 and for 1981 a TAC of only 5,800 tonnes,
 - recalling that the decision taken arbitrarily by the German Ministry of Fisheries must be seen in the light of the seizure of three West German trawlers following unauthorized catches of cod in these waters in early 1980, before it became apparent that the German fishing fleet was systematically plundering these threatened and protected cod stocks on a large scale;
 - emphasizing that Greenland's fish stocks represent the only real economic resource of the population of Greenland,
 - pointing out furthermore that the legal service and the Presidency of the Commission supported the German position, referring to the Commission's proposal for a TAC which is almost double that recommended by the biologists and which - if actually implemented - according to the view of the Greenland home rule authorities would constitute a serious threat to the young cod stocks off eastern Greenland, which would put the livelihood of the Greenland population at serious risk,
 - dissociating itself most emphatically from the crude criticism of the position of Denmark and Greenland, characterized by threats and taunting remarks, during the Council meeting of the Ministers of Fisheries in late January,
 - unable to discern in this affair any sign of the special preferential system which the EEC - as the Commission always claims - applies to coastal populations which are entirely dependent on fisheries, and whereas the course of events does not reflect in any way the Council's policy with regard to this sector of the population as laid down in the declaration of The Hague,
1. Calls on the Commission and the Council from now on to prevent the strong Member States of the Community bringing intolerable pressure to bear on the weak Member States;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

JUSTIFICATION OF URGENCY

Decisive fisheries negotiations are currently taking place.