

# European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1980 - 1981

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr Mario CAPANNA

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the abandoning of the island of Sacca Sessola  
in the Venice lagoon and on the state of the  
City of Venice



The European Parliament,

- Whereas:

- the problem of the city of Venice and its estuary concerns the survival of a civilization unique in the world which can be safeguarded only by complex, though feasible, technical and scientific measures;
- the City of Venice is witnessing a progressive deterioration in the way of life of its inhabitants and the characteristic features of its network of lagoons;
- because of the evictions and compulsory exodus of the inhabitants and their forced assignment to the tertiary sector, which are prejudicial to the industrial interests of Porto Marghera, and because of the construction of luxury housing for non-residents, the local inhabitants are losing their identity and their specific Venetian character.

- Considering that:

- on 25 February 1980 the island of Sacca Sessola was abandoned, contributing further to the decline of Venice and its estuary;
  - the said island possesses major civic structures and a great natural heritage (see annex),
1. Calls on the governments of the Member States of the Community to take active measures to help save the entire lagoon city by salvaging the island of Sacca Sessola;
  2. Proposes the following methods of saving the island, which will otherwise fall into ruin:
    - (a) establishing, within the existing structures, a national study centre on the pollution of the Adriatic and the Mediterranean;
    - (b) setting up a vocational training centre for fishing in the Adriatic and the Mediterranean for young people in search of work;
    - (c) salvaging the entire hospital equipment;
  3. Requests its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission and to the Government of the Italian Republic.

A. Brief history of the island of SACCA SESSOLA

Sacca Sessola is the newest island in the lagoon, formed artificially in 1870 when the mud from the excavations to deepen the access channel to the Maritime Station was used to raise a bank which had previously lain only a few centimetres above the surface of the water.

In this way a fertile island of 20 hectares was formed.

Part of the island was then covered by a large number of warehouses for storing petroleum.

In 1911, some of the warehouses were turned into a hospital, as cholera broke out that year in Venice.

In 1914, the Commune of Venice and the Civic Hospital agreed to transfer to Sacca Sessola patients with tuberculosis who had been lodged temporarily on the nearest island of Santa Maria delle Grazie.

Radical reconstruction work was therefore carried out on the existing warehouses, and new subsidiary buildings had to be constructed for this special section of the Civic Hospital which was then called the 'Tubercolosario San Marco' (San Marco Tuberculosis Hospital) where the conditions for patients were better, particularly because of the possibility of making use of innovations in curing the disease brought about by continuing medical progress.

Because of the 1915-18 war, the San Marco hospital was closed after the Caporetto retreat and the patients were transferred to the Civic Hospital.

After the armistice, they were sent back to the San Marco Hospital.

As the ward space for tubercular patients proved insufficient with the passage of time, the Commune of Venice considered handing over the whole area to the Fascist National Institute for Social Security as long as provision was made for building a hospital able to meet all the needs of the city and the province.

Previously, as well as caring for tubercular patients, a centre for retraining for work had been established (ergotherapy).

In 1921, the new church was founded and inaugurated by the Patriarch, Cardinal La Fontaine.

The Commune handed over the island, the Fascist Institute gave the necessary undertaking, and on 5 November 1931 the work of building the sanatorium was begun. This sanatorium was called 'Achille de Giovanni'.

On 5 June 1936, the sanatorium was opened by king Victor Emmanuel III.

The Achille de Giovanni sanatorium contained the following wards:

1st men's ward	1st women's ward
2nd " "	2nd " "
3rd " "	3rd " "
4th " "	Children's ward

On 13 January 1971, the A. De Giovanni sanatorium left the INPS (National Institute for Social Security) system and became an 'Ente Ospedaliero' (autonomous body). This was then managed by a temporary Commissioner (G. Andrezza) who held this post until 15 May 1973, when the Management Committee which now runs the 'Ente' was appointed.

The island is situated far from all sources of pollution.

It has a temperate climate, even in mid-winter, when roses and olive trees are in bloom. It has a large hospital complex in the construction of which much use was made of open spaces and glass. The building is still in very good condition and has room for some 500 beds.

The ground floor has two wards of 30 beds each, one of which has been reconstructed. The other could be reconstructed in a short space of time. It also has the following areas: patient's restaurant, patient's shop, kitchen, pantry, laundry room, linen room, ovens, staff restaurant, mortuary and anatomy room, main boathouse (cavana).

Some of the administrative offices, the offices of the medical director, the medical library and the medical file archives are situated on the first floor.

The main building has the following services: reception and first aid service;

- radiology service (including a horizontal and vertical stratigraph), two radiosopic machines, and a developing room for plates). At present this service serves the entire hospital; a second radiological diagnosis service is planned.
- physiopathological cardiorespiratory service (the cardiology section has an electrocardiograph, a phonocardiograph and an oscillograph. It has acquired a small plant equipped with a defibrillator, a cardiac stimulator and a frequency meter).

The respiratory section also has a therapeutic division, with aerosol and ultrasound equipment and positive and intermittent positive-negative ventilators of type Mark 7 and Mark 8.

It has also acquired volumetric pulmonary ventilators of type Logic 4.

The diagnostic division has a cycloergometer, a spiograph, a pH, pO<sub>2</sub>, pCO<sub>2</sub> blood analyser and a diagnostic complex called Pulmostar for studying static and dynamic pulmonary volumes and the conductivity and resistance of the respiratory tract.

It has acquired a transformer for converting the barometric pletismographic chamber into a compensated volumetric chamber and a device for studying the diffusion of alveolar gases.

- Surgery: (used for bronchoscopy. It is equipped with very modern cold-light optical equipment and anaesthesia and reanimation equipment)
- gynaecological surgery
- dental surgery
- ORL surgery
- staff surgery.

The following premises are also located on this floor:

consulting room  
administrative offices  
canteen for medical and other staff  
former chaplain's quarters  
offices of the second head physician and secretariat  
respiratory function equipment  
2 wards of 60 beds. The one on the west has two sections of 30 beds each.

The third floor comprises:

chaplain's quarters  
staff library and discothèque  
2 wards of 60 beds each.

The fourth floor comprises:

pharmacy  
analysis laboratory  
other areas for two wards of about 30 beds.

All sections are equipped with centralized oxygen therapy equipment.

In addition to the hospital complex marked by a 3 on the small map, the island comprises the following:

- cavana (boathouse), porter's lodge, landing stage
- two-storey villa once used as the director's house
- heating plant
- water reservoir
- naphtha store
- workshops (carpentry, machining)
- storehouses
- storeroom for material
- farm
  - stables, hayloft, pigsties
- staff accommodation (two-storey building with about 100 beds)
- wineshop and shops (from the San Marco sanatorium)
- church
- staff leisure centre
- staff cinema and theatre
- greenhouse.

The total surface area of the island is 159,730 m<sup>2</sup>, divided up as follows:

- |                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - area of buildings                | approx. 12,500 m <sup>2</sup> |
| - area of parks, paths and gardens | approx. 91,000 m <sup>2</sup> |
| - area of cavane (boathouses)      | approx. 2,000 m <sup>2</sup>  |
| - cultivable area                  | approx. 54,000 m <sup>2</sup> |

