

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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4 May 1983

DOCUMENT 1-263/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VANDEWIELE, Mr K. H. HOFFMANN,  
Mr KALOYANNIS, Mr MOORHOUSE, Mr GAUTHIER,  
Mr SEEFELD and Mr KLINKENBORG

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on Community measures for the inland waterway  
sector



The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the report by Mr Fuchs on possible measures to improve the situation in the inland waterway sector (Doc. 146/79) and its resolution on this subject of 11 May 1979<sup>1</sup>,
- B. having regard also to the report by Mr Hoffmann on the inland waterways in the Community (Doc. 1-323/82) and its resolution on this subject of 9 July 1982<sup>2</sup>,
1. Deplores the failure of the Commission of the European Communities to take any action in response to the numerous recommendations set out in the above report concerning the improvement of the situation in the inland waterway sector;
  2. Regrets that in the past five years no progress has been made at Community level as regards the inland waterways and notes that only one piece of legislation of any importance has been adopted, namely the Directive of 4 October 1982 laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels<sup>3</sup>;
  3. Points out that inland waterway transport offers major advantages such as low energy consumption, a high standard of safety and environmental compatibility and therefore considers the neglect of this transport sector by the Council and the Commission unacceptable;
  4. Draws attention to the fact, moreover, that the inland waterway sector has to contend with numerous difficulties, viz.:
    - a relatively low level of profitability;
    - disadvantages as regards competition with other modes of transport;
    - great dependence on water levels and seasonal variations which give rise to periodical imbalances between supply and demand for cargo space with all the attendant consequences for competition and freight charges;
    - serious bottlenecks in the waterway network and inadequate infrastructure;
    - absence of minimum social provisions;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 140 of 5 June 1979, p. 169

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. C 238 of 13 September 1982, p. 102

<sup>3</sup> OJ No. L 301 of 28 October 1982, p. 1

5. Notes that the inland waterway enterprises and bargemen's organizations are in favour of a European approach in this field, especially as regards transfrontier traffic;
6. Calls for the adoption of appropriate specific Community measures for the inland waterway sector and for a greater degree of harmony between the national regulations;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.