

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr PURVIS and Mr SELIGMAN

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on low head hydroelectric power development in the
European Community

The European Parliament

- A. Encouraging the best economic use of the Community's indigenous energy reserves;
- B. Concerned to remove energy cost and supply constraints on the Community's economic development;
- C. Aware of the Community's continuing substantial dependence on imported hydrocarbon fuels;
- D. Noting the uneven commitment by member states in harnessing nuclear energy for electricity generation which emphasises the need to harness other potential sources of electric power such as hydrogeneration;
- E. Noting the uneven interest in member states in harnessing low head hydroelectric power contained in the Commission's reply to Written Question No.1281/82;
- F. Believing that the low head hydroelectric potential of rivers in the Community can contribute usefully to electricity supplies using a renewable non-pollutant energy source with minimal constructional effects on the environment, as an example, a water head of 10m with a flow of 60 cubic metres per second results in an output of 5.2MW;
- G. Aware of the long experience of the People's Republic of China in hydroelectricity where 60,000 small hydro-installations have a total capacity of 3GW;
- H. Conscious of the need for small remote communities to have access to a reliable continuous source of electricity supply;
- I. Having regard to the importance of water resources to agriculture in certain regions, to the establishment of industry in less favoured regions and to the needs of certain urban areas;
- J. Believing therefore that harnessing low head hydroelectric power can contribute to the more rational use of the Community's water resources, particularly for agriculture and industry;
- K. Noting that some member states offer financial incentives for investment in small hydroelectric plants;
- L. Noting that four member states are pursuing standardisation programmes for various sizes of hydroelectric power unit;

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- M. Drawing attention to the urgent research programme in low head hydro plant launched by the Japanese Government through the MITI Agency for Industrial Science and Technology and the Japanese New Energy Foundation;
 - N. Drawing attention to the US Bill S1420 authorising increased expenditure in the period 1981-1985 for the construction of hydroelectric plant;
1. Calls for a survey and listing of all river sites in member states and the accession states for small, mini, and micro hydro plant;
 2. Calls for a programme to establish Community wide standards for small, mini and micro hydro plant, taking into account the latest developments in power plant technology, the need to ensure the common market in power plant equipment and the economies of scale to enable new low head hydroelectric schemes to compete with other forms of electricity generation;
 3. Calls for a study of the low head hydroelectric potential of the ACP states through the scheme for energy programming;
 4. Invites the Governments of the ACP states to state priorities for hydroelectric development in their own territories;
 5. Invites the Commission to make proposals for a Community Guideline for low head hydroelectric development;
 6. Invites the Commission as a priority to make appropriate proposals to incorporate low head hydro electric schemes within the Community Integrated Development Operations for the regions and to study the problems associated with linking small hydro installations to the electricity grid system;
 7. Invites the Commission to make appropriate proposals for demonstration projects with the objective of Community-wide co-operation among firms, bearing in mind the need for Community firms to compete in the world market for the supply for low head hydro plant and including the suitability of standardised turbine generators, pumps and components;
 8. Calls for the Community's financial instruments to be placed at the disposal of communities, regional and local authorities and firms for the exploitation of low head hydroelectric potential
 9. Requests details of national legislation which encourages or hinders the exploitation of low head hydroelectric potential;
 10. Requests its President to transmit this motion for resolution to the Commission, Council, Governments of member states and the Governments of the ACP states.