

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

9 SEPTEMBER 1982

DOCUMENT 1-582/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr JOHNSON, Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN, Mr COLLINS, Mr VANDEWIELE, Mrs SPAAK, Mrs CASTLE, Sir Henry PLUMB, Mr CURRY, Mr WITTGENSTEIN, Mr BERKHOUWER, Mrs SCRIVENER, Mr MUNTINGH, Mr SPINELLI, Mrs SQUARCIALUPI, Mrs WEBER, Mr McCARTIN, Mr NORD, Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM, Lord DOURO, Mr ISRAEL, Mr MARSHALL, Mr BEYER DE RYKE, Mr ENRIGHT, Mr PRAG, Mr SPICER, Lord O'HAGAN, Mr BOMBARD, Mr IRMER, Mr von WOGAU, Mr DEL DUCA, Mr van AERSSSEN, Mr ROGALLA, Mr GHERGO, Mr FERGUSSON, Mrs FUILLET, Mr SHERLOCK, Mr SIMPSON, Mr MERTENS and Mr VERROKEN

Mr HOWELL, on behalf of the European Democratic Group

with request for topical and urgent debate pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on the Commission's failure to implement Parliament's resolution of 11 March 1982

The European Parliament

- A. recalling its resolution of 11 March 1982 adopted by a majority of 160 votes to 10, on the basis of the report by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN) which requested the Commission, following the example of the United States, the Netherlands and Italy and taking into account the action of retail traders in France, to introduce, by means of a regulation, a ban on Community imports of all skins and products derived from young hooded and harp seals and on these and other products coming from seals whose stocks are depleted, threatened or endangered,
- B. recalling that the resolution of 11 March 1982 also requested the Commission to bring forward proposals to include all species of seal in Annex C of the Council regulation implementing the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES),
- C. recalling that the Commission informed the Parliament on 19 April 1982 that it had asked the Nature Conservancy Council in the United Kingdom to examine the latest available scientific data relating to the status of the hooded and harp seal,
- D. noting that the European Environment Bureau at an Extraordinary Assembly held in Luxembourg on 28 April 1982 called upon the Commission to come forward rapidly with the proposals requested by the Parliament,
- E. noting that the Nature Conservancy Council, after consulting a group of international experts, advised the Commission in May 1982, 'to take all action within its competence to reduce the level of exploitation of the hooded and harp seal species and to ensure the future security of these populations' and in particular recommended a ban on trade,
- F. noting that a Gallup poll carried out in May 1982 showed that over 60% of Canadians are opposed to the seal hunt,
- G. noting that over 300 Members of the House of Commons in the United Kingdom have signed Early Day Motions calling for action in response to the European Parliament's resolution and that similar concern has been expressed in the legislatures of other Member States and in the United States where

no less than 51 Senators and 105 Congressmen have sent telegrams to the President of the Commission and the President of the Council urging 'secure, swift and complete implementation of all points of Parliament's resolution' as a necessary complement to measures already taken in the United States,

- H. noting further that the question of the follow-up to the Parliament's resolution of 11 March was on the Agenda of the Environment Council held on 24 June 1982 in Luxembourg and that the Council agreed to support Community action for the protection of seals,
- I. noting finally the inadequate response given by the Commission on 6 July 1982 to Oral Question No. H77/82 which asked the Commission to indicate the precise timetable for the presentation of the draft regulation to the Parliament and Council, bearing in mind the need for the Council to be able to adopt this regulation in time for it to be put into effect before next year's 'seal hunt',
 - 1. Deplores the continued failure of the Commission to propose the draft regulations requested by Parliament;
 - 2. Requests the Commission to send the necessary proposals for regulations to the Parliament and the Council before the next part-session and to report to Parliament at succeeding part-sessions on progress made towards their adoption;
 - 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.

