

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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11 OCTOBER 1982

DOCUMENT 1-721/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr EPHREMIDIS, Mr PIQUET, Mrs DE MARCH,  
Mr ADAMOU, Mr ALAVANOS, Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO,  
Mrs BARBARELLA, Mr BONACCINI, Mr BUCCHINI, Mr GARDIA,  
Mrs CARETONI ROMAGNOLI, Mr CAROSSINO, Mr CERAVOLO,  
Mr CHAMBEIRON, Mr DAMETTE, Mr D'ANGELOSANTE, Mr DENIS,  
Mr DE PASQUALE, Mr FERNANDEZ, Mr FERRERO, Mr FRISCHMANN,  
Mr GALLUZZI, Mr GOUTHIER, Mr GREMETZ, Mrs HOFFMANN,  
Mr IPPOLITO, Mr LEONARDI, Mrs LE ROUX, Mr MAFFRE-BAUGE,  
Mr MARTIN, Mr PAPAPIETRO, Mrs POIRIER, Mr PRANCHERE,  
Mr SEGRE, Mrs SQUARCIALUPI, Mr VERGES, Mr VERONESI,  
Mr VITALE, Mr WURTZ

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

on and for the reafforestation of the areas of Athens  
destroyed by fire

Considering that:

- A - the fires that broke out during August and September in the wooded areas around Athens burnt and destroyed an expanse of forest of about 4,000 hectares,
- B - this year's fires were almost similar in extent to the fires of 1980 and of previous years; this poses a great threat to the ecological environment of Athens,
- C - this fresh destruction of the forest around Athens considerably aggravates the problem of long term atmospheric pollution which is more acute in Athens than in the other major cities of Europe owing to the small area of vegetation in and around the city; this has dramatic consequences for the health of the inhabitants and for the survival of the Acropolis and the other invaluable archaeological monuments which constitute an integral part of European and universal culture and which are today threatened by pollution,
- D - the reafforestation of the burnt areas must be carried out as a matter of urgent necessity before changes in the soil make it difficult or impossible,
- E - the whole of the forest area burnt in Greece in 1981 was 81,400 hectares and in 1982 at the beginning of September it already amounted to more than 30,000 hectares; it is thus extremely difficult and expensive for the Greek economy to deal with this problem,
- F - in Athens there are 2.2 sq. metres of green area per inhabitant compared with 10 sq. metres in Rome and 25 sq. metres in Vienna,

The European Parliament,

1. Calls on the Commission to give substantial economic aid by means of the suitable financial mechanisms (ERDF, EIB) for the reafforestation of the burnt areas of Athens and of the rest of Greece;

2. Calls on the Commission to contribute financially and scientifically to the immediate drawing up and execution of a fire-prevention programme in Athens and in other sensitive areas of Greece;
3. Calls on the Commission to consider what contribution it intends to make to the creation of a permanent body for the protection of woods in Athens;
4. Calls on the Commission to contribute towards the training of specialized personnel (forestry experts, forest-guards, firemen, scientists specialized in particular fields etc.) by means of the Social Fund; this will be instrumental in reducing unemployment in Athens;
5. Calls on the Commission of the European Communities to contribute economically to the development of the green areas in Athens itself and for the expropriation of land for a scientific tree planting programme;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and to the Council of the European Communities.