

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr MUNTINGH, Mr COLLINS, Mrs SEIBEL-
EMMERLING, Mrs A. KROUWEL-VLAM, Mrs B. WEBER

on behalf of the Socialist Group

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on waste

PE 77.422

The European Parliament,

- aware of the fact that 1,800 million tonnes of waste are produced in the Community every year,
- aware of the fact that waste production is increasing by 2% to 3% every year,
- aware of the fact that this quantity includes 40 million tonnes of chemical waste, half of which can be qualified as toxic or dangerous,
- concluding that this situation may present serious dangers for the population and the natural environment, as shown by the numerous cases of toxic pollution which have come to light recently,
- having regard to the Council Directive of 20 March 1978 relating to toxic and dangerous waste (78/319/EEC), Article 4 of which requires the Member States to take appropriate measures to prevent the production of waste and to encourage recycling, reprocessing, re-use and reclamation of raw materials,
- aware of the conclusions reached by experts attending the Conference on Chemical Waste organized by the Commission in Copenhagen in March 1981 concerning the pronounced tendency to develop storage rather than re-processing facilities,
- aware of the fact that in France and Germany roughly 60% of waste and in the United Kingdom as much as 90% of waste is disposed of on land,
- whereas the lack of adequate reprocessing capacities encourages legal and illegal transfrontier transport of waste - particularly from the Netherlands to neighbouring countries and the North Sea - with all the attendant risks,
- concluding that the broad package of possible measures contained in the aforementioned directive has been implemented in a very one-sided manner, resulting in the development of storage facilities rather than in increased recycling, reprocessing and re-use,
- concluding that if waste continues to be stored, the dangers for the population and the environment will subsist,
- concluding that storage can lead to unnecessarily high land restoration costs as in the case of the toxic waste in Lekkerkerk in the Netherlands, where dumping of the waste was opted for in order to save the few thousand

guilders that it would have cost to treat it; apart from the inconvenience involved, the cost of repairing the damage has already reached 200 million guilders,

- whereas the waste produced every year contains raw materials potentially worth 10,000 million EUA and 70% to 80% of these raw materials are dumped in unprocessed form; and whereas consequently an opportunity to reduce the Community's raw material import bill by between 5,000 million and 7,000 million EUA is lost,

- concluding that the present trend in waste disposal policy is towards large-scale wastage of scarce energy supplies and finite raw materials,

request the Commission :

1. to draw up supplementary proposals such as to prevent the production of waste and to encourage recycling, reprocessing, re-use and reclamation of raw materials;
2. to organize, in preparation for these proposals and as a matter of priority, the conference on the reprocessing of waste which it was agreed in Copenhagen should be held before the end of 1981.

