

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs SCHLEICHER, Mr JOHNSON, Mr MUNTINGH,
Mrs PANTAZI, Mr EISMA, Mrs SQUARCIALUPI and Mr LYNGE

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the protection of the monk seal

The European Parliament,

- A. deeply concerned at the appalling decline in the monk seal population in the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean,
- B. believing that the extinction of the monk seal (*Monachus Monachus*) must be prevented,
1. Urges the Commission to examine what steps it can take to ensure the continued existence of the monk seal and in particular to consider:
- a. drawing up an inventory of all areas in which the monk seal is still found, in both European and African coastal waters, and determining the monk seal population in these areas,
 - b. promoting measures to give the monk seal effective protection in those areas where this is justified,
 - c. establishing and maintaining two breeding stations, one in the eastern and one in the western Mediterranean, accompanied, where necessary, by facilities for the care of seal pups,
 - d. concluding contracts with fishermen to protect the monk seal, as had already been successfully done by the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature,
 - e. conducting scientific research, inter alia into the biology and ecology of the monk seal,
 - f. launching and encouraging information programmes to secure public cooperation,
2. Urges the Commission to lay down these measures in a long-term action programme and to consolidate the financing of this programme over a comparatively long term;
3. Calls on the Commission to work in close collaboration with private nature conservation organizations, since these organizations are indispensable for securing the cooperation of fishermen;
4. Appeals urgently to the governments of all states in whose territory the monk seal is still found to cooperate closely with the Commission and give high priority to the protection of the monk seal;
5. Appeals in particular to the Greek Government to take positive action, given that the last sizeable monk-seal colonies are to be found in Greece,
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the accompanying report to the governments concerned.