

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

11 April 1978

DOCUMENT 51 '78

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr FELLERMAIER
on behalf of the Socialist Group

with request for an immediate vote
pursuant to Rule 47(5) of the Rules of
Procedure to wind up the debate on
oral question (Doc. 28/78)

on/shipping regulations

0.2.2

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the seriousness of the disaster which has befallen the Breton people and its consequences for the economy and environment of Brittany,
 - wishing to confirm the Community's solidarity with the stricken populations by providing an additional 1,000,000 EUA in financial aid under the heading 'Aid to disaster victims in the Community',
 - deploring the fact that little has been done by Member States through the Commission to organize a special task force equipped with adequate operational and technical means for combatting pollution caused by hydrocarbons following the Torrey Canyon disaster,
 - recognizing that had such steps been taken by Member States the disaster that has befallen Brittany may well have been less destructive, if not avoided,
 - conscious of the need to adopt at Community level any measures likely to prevent the recurrence of such disasters,
 - having regard to the European Parliament's previous initiatives in this field, and in particular the report by Mr PRESCOTT (Dec. 4/76),
 - taking account of the failure to ratify the international conventions on safety at sea and pollution,
1. Invites the Commission to introduce, at Community level, a regional agreement providing for the control of tankers transporting dangerous substances and for compulsory maritime routes; invites it also to organize all the facilities for intervention - including aircraft - available in the Member States of the Community to form a permanently available coastguard fleet, as first proposed by the Socialists over one year ago, responsible for coastal surveillance, air-sea rescue and fishing conservation;
 2. Asks the Commission to submit proposals with a view to putting an end to the abuse of flags of convenience, whose use by multinational oil companies involves unacceptable risks for populations and crews; points out that vessels flying such flags cause twice as many accidents as other vessels;

3. Points out that, in order to guarantee maximum security, higher qualifications should be required of crews and strict construction standards should be adopted for oil tankers;
4. Calls on the Commission to investigate new methods of combatting marine pollution caused by hydrocarbons and, in the present situation, to study the long-term effects on flora and fauna of the products used to absorb oil slicks in the event of accidents;
5. Looks to the Commission to urge and help the coastal states of the Community to set up a disaster prevention organization, based on mutual assistance and equipped with suitable towing and pumping vessels as well as adequate supplies of dispersing agents, with a view to taking more effective action than hitherto in the event of disaster;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

