

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr CERAVOLO, Mr FANTI, Mr VERONESI,
Mr GOUTHIER, Mrs BADUEL-GLORIOSO and
Mrs SQUARCIALUPI

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on Community aid for the protection of the
environment in Venice and Ravenna

The European Parliament,

- whereas
 - the Community's action programme on the environment provides for the carrying out of studies on environmental problems related to town planning and regional development,
 - the European Parliament on several occasions has recommended the continuance and intensification of efforts to preserve the natural and architectural heritage of the Community,
 - studies already carried out have determined that there are real dangers of the deterioration or disappearance of important features essential to the cultural identity of Europe,
 - the studies have demonstrated clearly the need to take urgent and adequate measures,
 - the Commission, with the support of CREST (the Committee on Scientific and Technical Research), has submitted a proposal for a decision on a research programme on the development of major urban concentrations,
- 1. NOTING the cries of alarm raised on all sides at the dangers threatening Venice, which must cause great concern to Parliament and the Community Institutions,
- 2. BEARING IN MIND that Venice is a unique part of the world's heritage because of its history, its architectural and natural wonders and its tradition of culture and civilisation,
- 3. POINTING OUT that the Venice region illustrates the modern contradictions of industrialized societies: the presence of a historic centre of international value, of a natural and environmental feature such as the lagoon, where one of the biggest industrial concentrations in Europe, Porto Marghera, is situated as well as commercial port traffic and fishing and aquaculture,
 - that there are pressures threatening this area from international interests such as the proposal to site dangerous activities like a major coal and energy port which, if agreed to, would make the existing imbalances and contradictions much worse,
 - that in spite of the valiant efforts of the local authorities who have acted even beyond the requirements of their office, the situation is still grave because the government has not fulfilled its responsibilities for the physical protection of Venice, a field in which, for subjective and objective reasons, there has been a serious inability to deal with and solve the most important bottlenecks,

4. ASKS the Commission and the Council:

- whether, in the framework of the third action programme on the environment which is now being drawn up and in the framework of the various Community policies such as the regional policy , agriculture and fisheries, tourism, transport etc, they will undertake to initiate a series of studies and reports covering a number of fields, aimed at finding a balance between the various factors involved;
- to ensure that these studies and reports, for which local bodies will be asked to help with the scientific research, will, though drawn up **separately**, be organized in a systematic way so that they can lead to an overall pilot project to serve as a model at European level for harmonization of productive activity, the environment and the historical, artistic and cultural heritage;
- to ensure that this study and research is aimed at studying the processes involved in the conversion of production resulting from the new relationship between the developing countries and the industrialized societies and the need for urgent measures to clean up the pollution of the air and of water in order to encourage the development of activities such as fishing, aquaculture, tourism and the development of the islands, **all of which require restoration and improvement of environmental conditions;**
- to ensure that these studies contribute to the creation of models for inter-regional relations, at present being studied in Venice, to assess the consequences of and the stimulus which can be provided by the policies undertaken in the various sectors;

5. BELIEVES:

- that an initiative of this kind, which must be diversified but homogeneous, implemented gradually and systematically, appears financially feasible; would set an example particularly as regards cooperation between the Community and the European local authorities in an area where the scope and gravity of the problems demand a sharing of ideas and efforts at international level; this could provide valuable lessons which could be extended to other areas of the Community with significant natural and archeological features; would demonstrate the Community's awareness of environmental problems and its ability to take action on matters such as this one which is universally recognised as a vital priority for Europe;

- CONSIDERING furthermore the equally grave situation in the commune of Ravenna, where subsidence is threatening the whole area which includes, with a remarkable similarity to Venice, priceless architectural and natural resources and a very large industrial centre, a port and holiday beaches, all of which are important to the rest of Europe;

6. BELIEVES:

- that this similarity, which is even more striking in that Ravenna and Venice are both sited in the same geological formation, suggests the possibility of including Ravenna in the proposed programme of studies on Venice for topics where they share the same or related features;
- that in particular, as regards subsidence, which is also present in Venice, and bearing in mind the fact that exhaustive studies have already been carried out and have identified the causes of this phenomenon, apart from the natural causes, the attention of the Italian Government should be drawn to the need to issue urgent legislative measures within its field of competence, which have been requested for some time now, to limit the drawing of underground water, particularly for industrial use, since it has already been ascertained that adequate water supplies can be obtained from surface waters.