

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1983-1984

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4 November 1983

DOCUMENT 1-972/83

PROPOSITION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs WEBER, Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING and Mr SCHMID

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the ban on the use and production of PCBs

The European Parliament,

- A - having regard to the high toxicity, the carcinogenic effect and the durability of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls),
  - B - having regard to their presence throughout the world, even in the polar ice caps,
  - C - having regard to their deposits in river sediment,
  - D - having regard to their dangerous build-up in the food chain, even in mothers' milk, which now contains on average 2 mg per kilo of fat,
  - E - having regard to their widespread use, despite restrictions, in high-capacity transformers, condensers and systems and also in unregistered small systems,
  - F - having regard to the danger constituted by transformers containing PCBs which overheat and burn,
  - G - having regard to the danger which will be posed in future by PCB emissions from waste incineration plants which will lead to a further build-up of PCBs in the natural environment,
  - H - having regard to the fact that, for the reasons given, PCBs will continue to pollute the environment for a long time even if production and use are halted immediately,
  - I - having regard to the substitutes for PCBs available in all the fields in which they are used,
  - J - having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr Muntingh of May 1982 (Doc. 1-255/82),
1. Considers that a general ban on the use and production of PCBs is urgently necessary;
  2. Calls on the Commission to submit immediately a proposed amendment to Directive 76/769 on the use of PCBs, banning use in the areas still permitted;
  3. Calls on the Member States to list all systems in which PCBs are still used (condensers, transformers, hydraulic fluids and coolants), to effect their conversion as soon as possible and to dispose of the waste harmlessly.