

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

30 March 1981

DOCUMENT 1-69/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COLLINS

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

concerning deep seabed mining and marine environment

PE 72.527

The European Parliament,

- RECALLING the reply given by Mr. Wilhelm Haferkamp to a question by Mr Morland, on the 4th August 1980, recognising the interests of the European Communities in deep seabed mining,
- NOTING that the tenth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea opened in New York on 9th March 1981 to finalise the draft convention of the law of the sea which deals inter alia with deep seabed mining,
- NOTING that the so-called 'like minded States' (France, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, Belgium, the United States and Japan) have meanwhile, without informed public debate, held meetings with a view to establishing a reciprocating States regime which would purport to legitimate deep seabed mining operations outside the globally negotiated international regime,
- NOTING that the majority of 'like minded States' are members of the European Communities; that the Federal Republic of Germany has already passed legislation on deep seabed mining (July 1980); that the United Kingdom is in the process of passing such legislation and that draft legislation is being considered in France and possibly in other member states,
- RECOGNISING the potential strategic and economic value of ferromanganese nodules to the international community and, in particular, to members of the European Communities,
- CONSCIOUS of the dependence of the terrestrial ecosystem on the maintenance of the balance of the marine environment,
- CONSCIOUS also that deep seabed mining will inevitably cause some disturbance to the marine environment, the extent and consequences of which it has not yet been possible to determine,

1. URGES the Council and the Commission to initiate scientific research to establish the character of the marine environment of the deep oceans and its susceptibility to harm from deep seabed mining;
2. URGES the Council and the Commission to ensure that any agreed regime for deep seabed mining would provide for the establishment of areas in which no mining operations may be carried out (stable reference zones);
3. RESOLVES to use its best endeavours to ensure that no Member State becomes a party to any regime for deep seabed mining, whether global or regional, which does not take due account of the need to protect the marine environment.
4. Call on its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.