

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1984-1985

10 MAY 1984

DOCUMENT 1-237/84/A

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the
Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

on the international Wadden Sea area

Part A: Motion for a resolution

Rapporteur: Mr H. MUNTINGH

PE 88.672/fin./A
Or.Ne

By letter of 10 June 1981, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection requested authorization to draw up a report on the international Wadden Sea area.

By letter of 3 November 1981, the committee was authorized to report on this subject.

On 26 November 1981, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mr Muntingh rapporteur.

It considered the draft report at its meeting of 18 April 1984 and at that meeting adopted the motion for a resolution unanimously.

The committee decided to propose to Parliament the application of Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Collins, chairman; Mr Ryan, vice-chairman; Mr Muntingh, rapporteur; Mr Alber, Mr Bernard (deputizing for Mr Bombard), Mr Ceravolo (deputizing for Mr Spinelli), Mr Eisma (deputizing for Mrs Spaak), Mr Johnson, Mrs Lentz-Cornette, Mr Protopapadakis (deputizing for Mr Del Duca) and Mrs Schleicher.

The report was tabled on 4 May 1984.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	9

- Annex I : Motion for a resolution Doc. 1-572/81
- Annex II : Convention of Ramsar
- Annex III : Administrative and juridicial situation
- Annex IV : Definitions: National Park
- Annex V : Joint Declaration
- Annex VI : Petition No. 2/83
- Annex VII : Petition No. 3/83
- Annex VIII: Petition No. 43/83

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement and annexes:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the international Wadden Sea area

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution on the international protection of seals on the North Sea tidal flats off the Netherlands, Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany (Doc. 1-572/81);
- having regard to the resolution of the Council of the European Communities and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 7 February 1983 on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment (1982-1986)¹,
- having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 20 November 1981 on the state of the Community environment²,
- having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 20 May 1980 on the World Conservation Strategy³,
- having regard to the entire complex of Community legislation relating to the protection of surface waters, water for drinking and bathing and shellfish waters, and the pollution of sea water, together with the numerous resolutions adopted by the European Parliament on these subjects,
- having regard, in particular, to the Council decisions and European Parliament resolutions concerning the Convention on the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution,
- having regard to Council Decision 82/72 of 3 December 1981 and the opinion of the European Parliament concerning the conclusion of the Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats⁴,
- having regard to the Council Directive of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds⁵,

¹OJ No. C 46 of 17.2.1983

²OJ No. C 327 of 14.12.1981

³OJ No. C 147 of 16.6.1980

⁴OJ No. L 38 of 10.2.1982

OJ No. C 175 of 14.7.1980

⁵OJ No. L 103 of 25.4.1979

- having regard to the first recommendation of the International Conference of Wetlands and Waterfowl held in Ramsar, Iran in February 1971 concerning the conservation of the Wadden Sea,

- having regard to the 'Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea' concluded between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands on 9 December 1982,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-237/84),

- A. having regard to the incalculable importance of the international Wadden Sea area as a link in the chain of natural ecosystems along the Western Palearctic migratory route, which is of vital importance for the survival of numerous bird species,
- B. aware that this chain extends across a number of Community Member States (Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom and France), two future Member States (Spain and Portugal) and several countries in Africa associated with the Community,
- C. having regard to the vital importance of the international Wadden Sea area as a nature reserve: for the North Sea as a breeding ground for many fish species, shrimps and benthic fauna of economic importance; for other tidal-flat and nature areas in countries both within and outside the Community, as an irreplaceable foraging ground on the Western Palearctic migration routes,
- D. whereas, in particular, the quality of water in the Rhine and other rivers flowing into the Wadden Sea, such as the Ems, Elbe and Weser, has a fundamental impact on the quality of water in the North Sea and the Wadden Sea,
- E. whereas the water masses of the Wadden Sea and the North Sea must be seen in conjunction on account of the prevailing currents and tidal movements,
- F. having regard to both the responsibility of the Community for economic development and the fight against unemployment in the various regions and the fact that many internationally important and/or transfrontier nature areas are to be found precisely in the economically weak regions,

- G. concluding that the Community both aims to and has the power to ensure that nature areas and economic developments do not conflict with one another,
- H. seriously concerned at the increasing threat posed by human activity to the international Wadden Sea area, a threat that can be summarized under the following headings: water pollution, industrialization, recreation, polderization, military activities, landscape despoiling, and mining,
- I. whereas these encroachments have led to
- a) the loss of suitable natural habitats for plants and animals
 - b) a reduction in the diversity of species
 - c) a deterioration of the quality of life,
- J. concluding from the above that the Community has an independent responsibility and competence as regards the international Wadden Sea area,
1. Expresses its alarm and indignation at the recent measures by the Netherlands Government with regard to the Dutch part of the Wadden Sea area under which a further part of this area (ca. 1000 hectares) is to be polderized, approval has been granted for the extraction of gas and the installation of an oil pipeline, and permission has been given for military activities;
 2. Calls on the Commission to accede to the Joint Declaration as the fourth party in addition to Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands in order to make a major contribution towards securing the full application and coordination of conventions and Community provisions relating to this nature area, with the aim of ensuring that Community nature conservation policy is implemented in optimum fashion, and also to undertake a coordinating role, specifically as regards organization, in the application of the Joint Declaration;
 3. Calls on the Commission to organize, in the near future, a conference of representatives from the Commission and the three Wadden Sea countries (Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands) to prepare for the accession of the Community to the Joint Declaration as the fourth (and coordinating) party;
 4. Calls on the Commission, in the preparatory and implementing phases of this accession to and extension of the Joint Declaration, to ensure that the four parties strictly adhere to and fully comply with the bird Directive, the Berne Convention and the other Community legislation referred to in this resolution;

5. Calls on the Commission to endeavour to have the Wadden Sea designated a 'European or Community Nature Reserve' or an 'International Nature Reserve' on the basis of effective, well-coordinated application of the conventions and Community legislation relating to nature conservation;
6. Calls on the Commission to give meaning to the designation 'European' or 'Community Nature Reserve' and lay down criteria for this designation such that it may also be applied to other important large-scale transfrontier nature areas within the Community;
7. Calls on the Commission to take the initiative in securing an agreement between countries under the Bonn Convention, including as far as possible the countries along the Western Palearctic migratory route - but at least with the participation of all the Community States involved - and if possible with all the relevant states associated with the Community;
8. Calls on the Commission to do everything possible to have all the vital links in the West Palearctic migration route that are located within the Community designated special protected areas under the bird Directive and the Berne Convention as quickly as possible and to ensure that effective protective measures are taken as regards these areas;
9. Calls on the Commission to take the initiative soon as regards establishing international talks on steps to protect the Wadden Sea seal;
10. Calls on the Commission to examine the extent to which it, as a party to the Joint Declaration, can employ existing Community instruments to bring agricultural and fishing projects into line with the desired form of management of the Wadden Sea area;
11. Calls on the Commission to examine how the Community, as a party to the Joint Declaration, can contribute to projects in the field of information and education and in the field of scientific research relating to international nature conservation;
12. Calls on the Member States to give enthusiastic support to the policy outlined in this report;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and explanatory statement to the Commission, the Council and the Member States.