

European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1982-1983

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16 July 1982

DOCUMENT 1-517/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs THEOBALD-PAOLI

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the protection of Mediterranean forests

PE 79.846

The European Parliament,

- A. Aware of the wealth which the Mediterranean forests constitute for the economy, environment and quality of life of the regions of southern Europe;
- B. Noting that the Mediterranean forests are threatened more seriously than ever before by the increase in the number of fires since the beginning of 1982, owing to a persistent drought;
- C. Pointing out that in the French Department of the Var alone, 1,250 hectares of forest have been ravaged by fire during the last six months (that is more than double the annual average for this part of the year) and that rainfall for the last three years shows a deficit equivalent to one year's normal rainfall (1.5 litres of water);
- D. Noting that the French Government has made considerable budgetary appropriations available since July 1981 to combat at long last the deterioration of the Mediterranean forest and that the airborne fire-fighting fleet, whose efficiency is universally recognized, has been considerably reinforced;
- E. Noting that fires rarely break out at the same time in all the regions and that the effectiveness of the fight against fires therefore depends on the acquisition of a large amount of sophisticated equipment and above all on the pooling of this equipment by its owners;
- F. Noting that European measures to protect Mediterranean forests would constitute an appropriate and judicious application of the provisions of Article 235 of the Treaty of Rome;
- G. Noting that the Community's Mediterranean forests extend from the French coast to eastern Greece and that a pooling of resources in such a large area would benefit every region concerned;
- H. Stressing that the commitments undertaken by the Community to assist the Mediterranean regions must be translated into early practical action in as many sectors as possible;
1. Draws the attention of the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States to the severity of the drought affecting the Mediterranean regions and requests them to draw the conclusions of this by granting these regions Community funds as a matter of urgency;
  2. Requests the Commission to compile a survey within three months of the resources available in the Community for the fight against forest fires and of present requirements;
  3. Requests it to submit to the Council a programme for acquiring additional resources for the fight against fires which could be administered by a body common to the regions concerned under the supervision of Community or international authorities authorized to do so;
  4. Suggests that it should encourage cooperation between all the Mediterranean States concerned by the matter;
  5. Requests the Commission, the Council and the Member States to consider the safeguarding of European forests as a new priority policy during the discussions concerning the Community's enlargement and the negotiations with the countries which have applied for accession;
  6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments of the Member States and the countries which have applied for accession.