

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT No. 1-7/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr EPHREMIDIS, Mr ADAMOU and Mr ALAVANOS
pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on the modernization of the railways in the
Peloponnese and the widening of the Corinth Canal

PE 83.702

The European Parliament,

- A. - having regard to the need to modernize the Greek rail and waterway network up to European standards so as to expedite the movement of goods, limit costs, increase trade, etc.,
- B. - stressing the need to promote the Peloponnese region, which lags behind both by Greek and European standards,
- C. - recognizing the positive effect on the internal economy of the Peloponnese region which would result from rail and waterway connections between Greek ports and other countries and between Greek ports themselves,
- D. - whereas the rational exploitation of Greece's ports and their transport communications with the external market is essential,
 1. Considers it useful and necessary to take immediate and effective measures to modernize communications between Athens-Piraeus and the ports of Kalamai and Patras and to draw up a programme for widening the Corinth Canal;
 2. Requests the Commission to cooperate in the preparation of a study of the problems arising from the continuing technological backwardness of the Peloponnesian railways, which date from the second half of the 19th century. The system was constructed by means of an exorbitant foreign loan - which the Greek public is still paying off - using a track gauge of 1 metre, which does not permit direct connection with the national Athens-Europe network with its track gauge of 1.43 m. Widening the tracks in the Peloponnese to correspond with the national network (1.43 m) will increase direct transportation of goods to the ports of Kalamai and Patras, reduce the cost of transporting goods to the European market and broaden the scope for development of the economy of the Peloponnese,
 3. Calls on the Commission to conduct the requisite study into the current situation regarding the Corinth Canal, the possibilities of widening it to meet the current requirements of shipping at the port of Piraeus and of commerce and industry in Athens, which accounts for 40% of the industrial potential of Greece and 31% of the population, and to use this as a basis for further action,
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.