

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983 - 1984

11 April 1983

DOCUMENT 1-155/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr ALBER, Mr GOPPEL, Mr LIGIOS, Mr KLEPSCH,
Mr HERMAN, Mrs SCHLEICHER and Mr SCHALL

on behalf of the European People's Party (CD Group)

with request for topical and urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on MOVEMENT AND TRADE INVOLVING TOXIC SUBSTANCES WITHIN AND
OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY

PE 84.297
Or. It.

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas, as far as their industrial activities are concerned, the Member States are involved in a volume of internal and external trade in toxic substances which, according to the latest OECD figures, is equivalent to 10% of all trade in the Community,
- B. whereas this trade also involves third countries not subject to Community directives, a fact which, as in the specific case of the Seveso dioxin, may constitute a threat to the safety of the people of Europe,
- C. whereas although the Swiss firm 'Givaudan' was given full responsibility in 1977 for removing the dioxin from Seveso, according to press reports this dioxin has crossed numerous European frontiers,
- D. whereas despite the precautionary measures for the transport of the dioxin from Seveso, involving the dilution of 300 g of toxic material in 2,200 kg of saline (in 41 drums usually used for the transport of highly radioactive waste), the reluctance of the competent Community authorities to provide assurances concerning safety measures for the definitive storage of the dioxin does little to reassure the public as to the effectiveness of the control measures taken by these authorities,
- E. astonished at the cavalier attitude displayed in certain cases by the companies responsible for these events,
 - 1. Calls on the Commission to draw up as a matter of urgency Community directives on the movement of toxic substances and to ensure that these directives are respected by all the Member States;
 - 2. Considers that, if these directives are to be effective, the Commission must be informed in advance of the production and movement of toxic substances and of all trade in these substances both within and outside the Community;
 - 3. Considers it vital also that these directives be respected by those companies which are outside the Community but which operate either directly or indirectly on Community territory;
 - 4. Considers that the Commission should provide adequate assurances regarding the transport of the Seveso dioxin;
 - 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.