

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

12 DECEMBER 1979

DOCUMENT 1-592/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr MUNTINGH, Mr VAN MINNEN, Mr WETTIG,
Mr SCHIELER, Mr SEELER, Mrs WEBER,
Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL, Mr SCHMID, Mr HÄNSCH,
Mr LINDE, Mr ARNDT, Mr WALTER,
Mr von der VRING, Mr WOLTJER,
Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM, Mrs van den HEUVEL,
Mr SCHINZEL, Mrs VIEHOFF, Mr ALBERS,
Mrs HOFF, Mr PETERS and Mr SCHMITT

with request for urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on/pollution of the Rhine

The European Parliament,

- concerned at the pollution of the waters of the Rhine by dangerous and toxic substances,
 - aware of its responsibilities to the 20 million inhabitants of one of the most populous and industrialized regions of Europe,
 - considering the urgent need for vigorous and concerted action to combat and reduce the pollution of the waters of the Rhine,
 - considering that the Bonn Convention on the pollution of the Rhine by chlorides has not yet been ratified by France, thus giving rise to legitimate protests in the other riparian states, which are particularly affected by this pollution,
 - considering the inadequate scope of the agreement on chlorides signed on 3 December 1976,
1. Stresses the importance which it attributes to environmental problems and in particular to combating pollution of rivers;
 2. Protests vigorously against the French Government's failure to act in spite of the fact that it has received substantial funds from the other signatory countries to the convention on chlorides;
 3. Instructs the Commission to submit to it within a maximum period of six months proposals taking account of the various options, in particular:
 - the ratification of the convention on chlorides,
 - use of the possibilities offered by the convention on chemical pollution,
 - the drawing up of the Community directive on measures to be taken to protect the Rhine against pollution by chlorides,
 - the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of international waterways against pollution,while respecting the economic and environmental interests of the parties and regions concerned;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and to the Governments of the Member States.

JUSTIFICATION

The refusal by the French Government to submit to the National Assembly the ratification of the Convention on the pollution of the Rhine by chlorides without proposing an alternative solution to alleviate the damage suffered by the riparian countries makes discussion of this question a matter of urgency, on the eve of the meeting of the International Commission on the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution.