

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

13 June 1983

DOCUMENT 1-387/83

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Regional
Policy and Regional Planning

on medium and long-term aid to disaster-stricken regions

Rapporteur: Mr Manlio CECOVINI

PE 84.028/fin.

By letter of 11 March 1982 the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning requested authorization to draw up a report on 'medium and long-term aid to disaster-stricken regions'.

By letter of 30 March 1982 the committee was authorized to draw up a report on this subject.

On 28 April 1982 it appointed Mr Manlio CECOVINI rapporteur.

At its meeting of 23 February 1982, at which it decided to request authorization to draw up this own-initiative report, the committee also decided to incorporate in it the following motions for resolutions, which had been referred to it pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure:

- motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kyrkos on 'aid to the population of the Messinia region affected by the forest fires' (Doc. 1-914/81), referred to the committee at the sitting of 21 January 1982; the Committee on Budgets was asked for an opinion;
- motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Clwyd and others on 'special aid for the people of Wales, one of the poorest regions of the EEC affected by extraordinarily severe weather conditions during January 1982' (Doc. 1-955/81), referred to the committee at the sitting of 15 February 1982; the Committee on Budgets was asked for an opinion;
- motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kyrkos on 'the restoration of the Athens forests following the fires of 1981' (Doc. 1-1041/81), referred to the committee at the sitting of 18 February 1982; the Committee on Budgets was asked for an opinion.

At its sitting of 5 July 1982 the European Parliament referred, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Adamou on 'the provision of special aid to the farmers of 25 prefectures in less favoured regions of Greece who suffered enormous damage from the bad weather in the last ten days of May 1982' (Doc. 1-391/82) to the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Budgets for an opinion. At its

meeting of 19 October 1982 the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning decided to incorporate this motion for a resolution in the present report.

At its sitting of 17 September 1982 the European Parliament referred, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Almirante and others on 'the damage caused in southern Italy by the hailstorm of 22 August 1982' (Doc. 1-628/82) to the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Agriculture for an opinion. At its meeting of 19 October 1982 the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning decided to incorporate this motion for a resolution in the present report.

At its sitting of 15 November 1982 the European Parliament referred, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Seal and others on 'special aid to the people of Todmorden, West Yorkshire, affected by severe flood damage in June 1982' (Doc. 1-751/82) to the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for an opinion. At its meeting of 26 November 1982 the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning decided to incorporate this motion for a resolution in the present report.

At its sitting of 12 January 1983 the European Parliament referred, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Romualdi and others on 'the damage caused by the landslide of 13 December 1982 in Ancona' (Doc. 1-1073/82) to the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for an opinion. At its meeting of 24 February 1983 the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning decided to incorporate this motion for a resolution in the present report.

The committee considered the draft report at its meetings of 25 February, 26 April and 26 May 1983 and at the last of these meetings the motion for a resolution was adopted unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Mr De Pasquale, chairman; Mrs Fullet, vice-chairman; Mr Cecovini, rapporteur; Mrs Boot, Mr Glinne, Mr Griffiths, Mr Kazazis, Mr Kyrkos, Mr Pottering, Mr K. Schon and Mr Von der Vring.

The Committee on Agriculture has decided not to draw up an opinion.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets will if necessary be published separately.

This report was tabled on 31 May 1983.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.....	
- Introduction and limits of this report	10
- Definition of a disaster	13
- Conditions governing eligibility for Community aid for a disaster-stricken region or population	14
- Checks and controls	16
- Source of Community aid	16
- Final considerations	17
 ANNEX I Initial disaster assessment schedule	
 ANNEX II Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kyrkos (Doc. 1-914/81)	
 ANNEX III Motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Clwyd and others (Doc. 1-955/81)	
 ANNEX IV Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kyrkos (Doc. 1-1041/81)	
 ANNEX V Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Adamou (Doc. 1-391/82)	
 ANNEX VI Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Almirante and others (Doc. 1-628/82)	
 ANNEX VII Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Seal and others (Doc. 1-751/82)	
 ANNEX VIII Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Romualdi and others (Doc. 1-1073/82)	

The Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on medium and long-term aid to disaster-stricken regions

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kyrkos on 'aid to the population of the Messinia region affected by the forest fires' (Doc. 1-914/81),
- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Clwyd and others on 'special aid for the people of Wales, one of the poorest regions of the EEC affected by extraordinarily severe weather conditions during January 1982' (Doc. 1-955/81),
- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kyrkos on 'the restoration of the Athens forests following the fires of 1981' (Doc. 1-1041/81),
- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Adamou on 'the provision of special aid to farmers of 25 prefectures in less favoured regions of Greece who suffered enormous damage from the bad weather in the last ten days of May 1982' (Doc. 1-391/82),
- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Almirante and others on 'the damage caused in southern Italy by the hailstorm of 22 August 1982' (Doc. 1-628/82),
- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Seal and others on 'special aid to the people of Todmorden, West Yorkshire, affected by severe flood damage in June 1982' (Doc. 1-751/82),

- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Romualdi and others on 'the damage caused by the landslide of 13 December 1982 in Ancona' (Doc. 1-1073/82),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning (Doc. 1-387/83),
- A. whereas Community aid to disaster-stricken regions is usually requested and granted for compelling reasons of a humanitarian nature and not on the basis of any coordinated programme or predetermined general criteria,
 - B. whereas a coordinated use of such aid is likely to do more to promote the policy of convergence between poor regions and rich regions than the practice of distributing it in a piecemeal fashion,
1. Reaffirms the principle that the granting of aid to disaster-stricken regions represents one of the most direct and tangible expressions of Community solidarity;
 2. With a view to establishing consistent criteria in this area, stresses the desirability of drawing a distinction between urgent aid and medium and long-term aid and of introducing, for the latter, general rules governing the conditions of eligibility for Community aid and the assessment and allocation procedures;
 3. Emphasizes that medium and long-term aid should be designed to restore normal conditions in the regions affected and to rebuild their socio-economic structures;
 4. Calls therefore on the Commission and the Council:
 - (a) to accept, for the purposes of medium and long-term Community aid, the following definition of a disaster: an exceptional destructive event which, because of its scale and long-lasting effects, cannot be successfully tackled within a reasonable period of time by the sole efforts of the authorities of the region affected or of the national authorities of the State in which the region is located;

- (b) to include in this definition both disasters resulting from natural causes and disasters caused by man;
- (c) to lay down the conditions governing eligibility for Community aid. In this regard, the following conditions are considered to be fundamental:
 - i - that the cause should be of an exceptional nature,
 - ii - that the effects should be long-lasting and require aid of a special nature,
 - iii - that the damage should be economic and not simply a matter of aesthetic appreciation;
- (d) to establish as criteria for assessing the exceptional nature of the event the seriousness of the damage caused in relation to the normal conditions obtaining in the region and amongst the population and the size of the region or the population affected;
- (e) to fix a minimum level of damage below which the event would not be considered a disaster for the purposes of this resolution and would not therefore be eligible for Community aid, and to that end to adopt a standard form for practical assessment purposes;
- (f) to establish both a right of redress against the persons responsible in the case of disasters caused by man and a right to compensation in the case of events covered by insurance;
- (g) to set up within the existing Commission departments an inspection and control unit with power to carry out on-the-spot technical checks and with responsibility for evaluating the extremity of a disaster in the terms indicated, applying the system of weighting, assessing the degree of severity and forecasting how aid can be used. Requests for Community aid should be submitted to the Commission by the local, regional or national authorities concerned;

- (h) to establish a uniform procedure for requests for aid under which the applicant State must provide all the information needed for a proper assessment of the event and the damage and give details of any emergency or follow-up aid already provided by the Community, by the State itself or by other bodies;
 - (i) bearing in mind the principle that Community aid should normally be additional to national aid and granted at the request of or through national authorities, to give consideration to the fact that in the case of extremely serious disasters direct Community involvement might be justified, irrespective of the procedure outlined above;
 - (l) to recognize that direct Community involvement might also be justified where disasters affect several Member States or Member States and other European States sharing a frontier or geographical boundary with the Community;
 - (m) to fix, where necessary, the minimum and maximum amounts of Community aid as a percentage of the amount of the total damage;
5. For the purposes of financing the Community aid, which should be made available subject to the conditions and in accordance with the rules and procedures specified above, considers it essential, bearing in mind the different circumstances which may from time to time arise, to provide that:
- (a) the European Regional Development Fund, the Guidance Section of the EAGGF and the European Social Fund should in particular be able to make a contribution, which would mean either increasing their financial endowment by an appropriate amount or making special changes to the relevant basic regulations so that, as and when appropriate, ad hoc and possibly new projects enjoying absolute priority and more extensive aid could be carried out in the regions concerned;
 - (b) in the case of the other structural policies, notably the energy, transport and environmental policies, suitable budget increases

should be made to support essential projects in the pipeline or already in hand, while new projects should be planned and financed as appropriate;

- (c) separate lines should from time to time be created in the EEC general budget to allow special financial facilities to be granted for a reasonable period of time on loans by the European Investment Bank out of its own resources and under the New Community Instrument for investment projects in disaster-stricken areas;
 - (d) in the relevant sectors, adequate resources should be made available by the European Coal and Steel Community to finance, by means of long-term loans at reduced rates of interest, housing and industrial reconstruction projects if necessary, augmenting the ECSC Budget from the appropriate line in the General Budget of the European Communities;
 - (e) wherever possible, an integrated development operation or an integrated development programme should be prepared and implemented with a view to concentrating and coordinating national and Community aid schemes. It should be pointed out that, in the context of the integrated development operations, application of the 'specific measures' covered by Item 5411 of the budget could assume particular importance: these measures are at present intended to enable the Community to tackle a very wide range of extremely serious and urgent problems and situations which cannot be remedied with the help of the existing EEC financial instruments;
 - (f) in the light of requirements and in addition to the measures specified above, all other appropriate measures should be adopted;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the accompanying explanatory statement to the Commission and the Council.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTIntroduction and limits of this report

1. The Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning has found that Community aid to disaster-stricken regions is usually requested and granted for compelling reasons of a humanitarian nature and not on the basis of any coordinated programme or predetermined general criteria. In embarking on a study of suitable regulations for this type of aid, it would appear that a distinction must first of all be made, for the purposes of this report, between disasters requiring immediate Community aid - i.e. those that could be classed as requiring 'emergency aid' - and those which, whether or not immediate aid is called for, require subsequent aid for reconstruction and support.

2. The aim of the present report is to deal with only the second category, i.e. medium and long-term aid for the physical and/or economic reconstruction of disaster-stricken areas, the restoration of works and services, reafforestation etc. Meanwhile, the Community will have to employ other procedures and instruments to provide itself with more suitable means for tackling the initial urgent requirements with respect to emergency intervention and aid. This matter is already being dealt with by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection. (1)

3. As far as primary aid is concerned, it is worth remembering that the European Community already has an instrument at its disposal, though somewhat limited in its aims and its financial endowment, namely the operations financed by the appropriations entered under Article 690 of the EEC general budget 'Aid to disaster victims in the Community'.

4. As Volume 7 of the preliminary draft general budget 1983 (2) points out, the principle of aid for disaster victims has been expressly accepted by the Council since the 1971 budget. Since the 1977 budget, the corresponding budget heading (Article 400) has been split between:

(1) See draft report by Mr A. BOMBARD: PE 80.321

(2) See COM(82) 200, p. B/521

- Chapter 69, under which Article 690 referred to above falls, for aid to disaster victims in the Community,
- Article 950, for aid to disaster victims in non-Member countries.

5. The appropriations entered under Article 690 (amounting to 6 million ECU for the 1983 financial year) are specifically intended to finance emergency aid for disaster victims in the Community. This aid takes the form of subsidies of a general nature (food, tents, etc.) to help disaster victims as rapidly and directly as possible to deal with the urgent need to protect life and provide subsistence for individuals.

6. The subsidies financed by the appropriations entered under Article 900 referred to above (amounting to 10 million ECU for the 1983 financial year) of the EEC general budget 'aid to disaster victims in developing and other non-Member countries' are identical in their nature and aims. The sole difference from the aid provided for under Article 690 is that only the populations of developing and other non-Member countries may benefit from them.

7. However, as far as the aim of the present report is concerned, namely medium and long-term aid for the physical and/or economic reconstruction of disaster-stricken areas, the only measures that can be taken at present are under the two budget headings in Chapter 69 of the EEC general budget, a summary of which is given below.

8. Item 6910: Annual funding of interest subsidies on special loans to Italy following the November 1980 earthquake

Volume 7 of the EEC preliminary draft general budget 1983 (1) states as follows:

- (a) the legal basis for the operation under the budget heading in question is derived from Council Decision 81/19/EEC of 20 January 1981 on Community aid granted by way of exception for the reconstruction of the regions affected by the Italian earthquake in November 1980 (2);

(1) See COM(82) 200, p. B/522

(2) See OJ No. L 37, 10.2.1981

(b) with regard to the appropriations entered under the budget heading in question, interest subsidies on a principal not exceeding 1,000 million ECU may be granted on loans made either by the European Investment Bank out of its own resources or under the New Community Instrument, as provided for in Article 1 of Decision 78/870/EEC, to support investments carried out in the regions affected by the earthquake.

It should be pointed out:

- that the interest subsidy on the above loans is fixed at three percentage points for a maximum of 12 years;
- that the aid consists solely of the said interest subsidy. In fact the loans of 1,000 million ECU merely represent the maximum subsidy available and, as such, are those to which Italy is normally entitled;
- that appropriations of 20 million ECU for the 1983 financial year are entered to finance the subsidy referred to in Item 6910.

9. Article 692: Annual funding of interest subsidies on special loans to Greece following the February and March 1981 earthquakes

Volume 7 of the EEC preliminary draft general budget, 1983 (1) also states:

- (a) the legal basis for the operation entered under the budget heading in question derives from Council Decision 81/1013/EEC of 14 December 1981 concerning Community aid granted by way of exception for the regions affected by the earthquakes in Greece in February and March 1981 (2);
- (b) with regard to the appropriations entered under the budget heading in question, interest subsidies on a principal not exceeding 80 million ECU may be granted on loans made either by the European Investment Bank out of its own resources or under the New Community Instrument, as provided for in Article 1 of Decision 78/870/EEC, to support investments carried out in the regions affected by the earthquakes.

(1) See COM(82) 200, p. B/524

(2) See OJ No. L 367, 23.12.1981

It should be pointed out:

- that the interest subsidy on the above loans is fixed at 3 percentage points for a maximum of 12 years;
- that the aid, as already stated in the case of Item 6910 which has already been examined, consists solely of the said subsidy;
- that appropriations of 2.4 million ECU for the 1983 financial year are entered to finance this subsidy under Article 692.

10. The existence of the above budget headings 6910 and 692 is extremely important as far as the present report is concerned insofar as they represent the positive application, albeit partial and only in specific cases, of the principle which recognizes the need for Community aid for medium and long term operations to tackle the effects of disasters.

As already pointed out, the principles and general procedures governing this aid must now be specified so that it can be made as effective and as flexible an instrument as possible having regard, at the same time, to the possibility of using other Community financial instruments in addition to interest subsidies.

Definition of a disaster

11. For the purposes of this report, the term 'disaster' means those exceptional destructive events which, because of their scale and long-lasting effects, cannot be successfully tackled within a reasonable period of time merely by the authorities of the regions affected or by the national authorities of the country in which the region is located.

12. The disasters referred to can be grouped into two main categories:

- (a) disasters resulting from natural causes: namely, earthquakes or bad weather that seriously endanger lives or the natural environment, built up areas, factories, agriculture, trade, artisanal crafts or tourism. For example, without precluding other possibilities, such disasters may include: earthquakes and seaquakes; storms, floods and drought; epidemics, animal and plant diseases; geological disasters arising from natural causes such as eruptions, avalanches, landslides, etc.;

(b) disasters caused by man: namely, disasters arising from both legal and illegal human actions that seriously endanger humans or animals, with particular regard to animals kept for food production or stock-rearing, or agricultural land and forests, or built-up areas and the means of production. For example, without precluding other possibilities, such disasters may include: fires; pollution of the soil, the air, inland and sea water; epidemics or animal diseases; explosions caused by man either on purpose or by accident; war hostilities, attacks; geological disasters caused in full or in part by man such as the collapse of mines and pits, subsidence in built up areas, the collapse of dykes and dams, the unexpected drying-up of rivers or lakes, etc.

The regions and the populations affected in either category would be eligible for Community aid provided in accordance with the aims of this report.

Conditions governing eligibility for Community aid for a disaster-stricken region or population

13. The basic conditions under which a disaster may be taken into consideration for the purposes of assessing eligibility for medium and longterm aid are:

- that the cause should be of an exceptional nature,
- that the effects should be long-lasting and require aid of a special nature,
- that the economic damage should be considerable and not merely superficial.

14. The exceptional nature of the event should be assessed in relation to:

- the seriousness of the damage caused with respect to the normal conditions obtaining in the region and amongst the population,
- the size of the region or of the population affected.

15. To this end, a 'minimum' level of damage should be established below which the event would not be considered a disaster for the purposes of this report and would not therefore be eligible for Community aid. This minimum may be established on the basis of the following criteria, taken either individually or together, by weighting each factor appropriately:

- the full extent of the damage (an essential factor but not sufficient in itself),
- the size of the population involved,
- the size of the area affected,
- the scale of the lost means of production,
- the unemployment caused,
- the ability of the Member State (or the region affected) to employ its own resources.

16. The final weighting based on this assessment should be more than a certain given figure for the event to be considered eligible for aid. Below this figure, sole responsibility for the damage would remain in the hands of the national or local authorities of the region or the population affected.

17. In the case of disasters caused by man, a right of redress against the persons responsible may exist; and, in the case of events covered by insurance, a right to compensation may exist.

In such cases provision may be made to reduce Community aid by an amount equal to the amount of damage for which the national authorities themselves are to pay to supplement Community aid, without prejudice to any action of redress against the persons responsible or any claim for insurance compensation.

Checks and controls

18. Requests for Community aid must be processed and then submitted to the Commission by the national authorities concerned even if the request originated elsewhere.

19. A Community control instrument should be set up with power to carry out on-the-spot checks and with responsibility for evaluating the extremity of the 'disaster' in the terms indicated, applying the system of weighting, assessing the degree of severity and forecasting how aid can be used.

20. Furthermore, these assessments should be carried out freely and independently of those carried out by the State concerned. To this end, a form similar to the one attached could be used.

21. Any Member State which submits a request for aid may be asked to give a full account of all the attendant circumstances pertinent to the technical assessment having regard, at the same time, to any national or Community emergency aid already provided and to any possible financial contributions already granted from any source and, in particular, from public finance.

Source of Community aid

22. It should be noted that Community aid

- should supplement national or other aid,
- may, and, where necessary, should make use of every possible Community source and, in particular, any Community fund or credit instrument, as well as any other measure which may be appropriate.

23. To this end, the ratio between the aid provided by the national authorities or some other source and that provided by the Community should be established by fixing, where necessary, the minimum and maximum amounts of Community aid as a percentage of the amount of the total damage.

24. In view of the principle that Community aid should normally be additional to national aid and granted at the request of or through national authorities, consideration may be given to extremely serious disasters which call for direct Community involvement having regard, above all, to aspects of a humanitarian nature on which no definite limit can be placed.

25. Furthermore, in view of the present political breakdown of the Community into national states which do not always correspond to precise geographical boundaries, there is scope, where disasters affecting different Member States are concerned, for direct and independent Community aid.

Final considerations

26. Given the basis for rationalizing medium and long-term Community aid on behalf of disaster-stricken regions, the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning hopes that a systematic application of aid can promote a fair balance between the fundamental undertaking to bring about economic convergence and recovery in depressed areas, the need for unity at Community level and the need for shrewd and prudent administration of the Community's own financial resources.

INITIAL DISASTER ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

I - Classification

(A) Natural causes

- A1 - earthquake ()
- A2 - seaquake ()
- A3. - storm, torrent ()
- A4 - flood ()
- A5 - drought ()
- A6 - epidemic (specify) ()
- A7 - animal disease (specify) ()
- A8 - plant disease (specify) ()
- A9 - eruption ()
- A10 - avalanche, landslide, tornado ()
- A11 - ... ()

(B) Caused by man

- B1 - forest fire ()
- B2 - fire in built-up area ()
- B3 - soil pollution (specify the agent) ()
- B4 - air pollution (specify the agent) ()
- B5 - pollution of inland waters (specify the agent) ()
- B6 - pollution of the sea (specify the agent) ()
- B7 - epidemic caused by artificial agent (specify) ()
- B8 - animal disease caused by artificial agent (specify) ()
- B9 - explosion caused by man (specify) ()
- B10 - hostile act ()
- B11 - attack ()
- B12 - mine collapse ()
- B13 - pit collapse ()
- B14 - subsidence of a built-up area ()
- B15 - collapse of dyke or embankment ()
- B16 - ... ()

II - Community assessment of the damage

(a) assessment of the total damage (m ECU)

	Total	% 1)regional 2)national	Community
(b) population involved	No. of persons	1)% 2)%	...%
(c) size of region	sq. km.	1)% 2)%	...%
(d) means of production jeopardized (PIL)		1)% 2)%	...% ...%
(e) jobs lost		1)% 2)%	...% ...%
(f) ability of Member State etc.			

III - Responsibility for possible redress or deductions

- Member State ()
- Local authority ()
- Others ()

insurance cover (NO) (YES) specify

IV - Other possible comments on the damage and the assessment

V - Community emergency aid already provided

m ECU

- 'one off' finance
- ERDF
- EAGGF
- EIB
- Social Fund
- Other loans
- etc.

Total

VI - National emergency aid already provided

- kind of aid
- amount

mm ECU or amount

VII - Final decision

	(YES)	(NO)
- eligible for Community aid	()	()
- kind of aid	()	()
- suggested amount of aid	()	()
- sources of finance	()	()

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

DOCUMENT 1-914/81

tabled by Mr KYRKOS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on aid to the population of the MESSINIA region affected by the forest fires

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the economic situation obtaining in the Messinia region, where agricultural activity is of prime importance,
- having regard to the high percentage of persons engaged in agriculture,
- having regard to the structure of agriculture in the region, where arboriculture is the most important of all agricultural activities, and having regard to the fact that farmers are dependent for their income on the growing of trees,
- having regard to the destruction of the tree plantations in the Messinia region by the fires last summer,
- having regard to the petition by the inhabitants of the region in which they request financial assistance for replanting trees so that they may continue their agricultural activity and not be obliged to emigrate,
- considering that the environment ought to be given a chance to regain its former equilibrium, which was disrupted by the fires,

Requests the Commission to express the Community's solidarity for those affected by the catastrophe:

1. by making a substantial financial contribution to help restore the plantations destroyed, and
2. by giving a lump-sum income subsidy to the farmers of the region affected by last summer's fires.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

DOCUMENT 1-955/81

tabled by Miss CLWYD, Mr GRIFFITHS, and Mr ROGERS
pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on special aid for the people of Wales, one of the poorest regions of the EEC
affected by extraordinarily severe weather conditions during January 1982.

The European Parliament,

- deeply concerned by the situation in the area concerned and sympathizing with the people affected,
- noting that the agricultural industry has suffered considerable economic losses - estimated at £3m - in an area containing many small marginal and hill farmers,
- noting that the Welsh steel industry is being threatened with further job losses as a result of lost production and damage to plant,
- noting that unemployment in Wales (15.7%) is, next to N. Ireland, the highest in the UK, and that the damage to the infrastructure is endangering the economic activity of the whole area,

Calls on the Commission of the European Communities

1. To assess the situation thoroughly on the spot;
2. To make funds and other aid available as a matter of urgency.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

DOCUMENT 1-1041/81

tabled by Mr KYRKOS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the restoration of the Athens forests following the fires of 1981.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the erosion of the abundant forestry resources of Attica,
 - having regard to the total destruction of considerable tracts of forest as a result of fires last summer,
 - having regard to the need to protect the inhabitants of Attica who are continually exposed to atmospheric pollution and to the permanent smog over the city of Athens,
 - having regard to the need to halt the continuous erosion of the forests and to restore the areas destroyed by fires,
 - having regard to the Greek Government's inability to cover the cost of the restoration and afforestation of hundreds of hectares of forest,
1. Invites the Commission to draw up, together with the Greek Government, a special afforestation and restoration programme for the forests of the Attica basin and to make a substantial contribution to the cost of implementing the programme.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

DOCUMENT 1-391/82

tabled by Mr ADAMOU

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the provision of special aid to the farmers of 25 prefectures in less-favoured regions of Greece who suffered enormous damage from the bad weather in the last ten days of May 1982

The European Parliament

- A. having regard to the great damage caused to agricultural production in the last ten days of May 1982 by the high winds, hail and floods in 25 agricultural regions of Greece,
- B. whereas, according to provisional estimates by the Greek Ministry of Agriculture (31.5.1982), damage was done to more than 450,000 hectares at a cost in excess of 5,000 million drachmas (80 million ECU),
- C. whereas the damage, which relates to basic crops (150,000 hectares of cereals, 60,000 hectares of cotton, 300 hectares of market garden produce) and fruit trees (apple and pear trees, vines, etc.) and to cattle breeding and agricultural installations, makes economic survival extremely problematic for the Greek farmers affected,
- D. whereas the damage in certain areas resulted in the total destruction of production (Karditsa, Trikkala, etc.) and thus threatens to ruin the entire economic life of these areas,

Calls upon the Commission:

- 1. To regard the provisional estimates made of the damage by the competent Greek authorities as minima and to furnish help as rapidly as possible to the farming families whose production has been destroyed;
- 2. To draw up a programme of further essential help for the farmers and cattle-breeders affected;
- 3. To take steps for the future protection of these regions from similar happenings (through land improvement, drainage and flood prevention works, etc.) and to help substantially the reestablishment of destroyed rural homesteads;
- 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

DOCUMENT 1-628/82

tabled by Mr ALMIRANTE, Mr ROMUALDI, Mr BUTTAFUOCO and Mr PETRONIO
pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on the damage caused in Southern Italy by the hail storm of 22 August 1982

The European Parliament,

- A - whereas the communes of Capurso, Valenzano, Triggiano, Noicattaro, Bitetto, Binetto, Bitritto, Sannicandro, Mola, Modugno and the Bari wards of Loseto, Carbonara and Ceglie are economically almost entirely dependent on agriculture,
- B - noting that the hail storm of 22 August 1982 caused particularly serious damage to vine- and olive-growing areas,
- C - emphasizing that in Triggiano alone some 2,000 hectares, 700 of which are under vine cultivation, were destroyed, resulting in heavy financial losses for the local growers,
- D - pointing out that damage is estimated at several billion lira,
- E - noting that this disaster adds to a series of misfortunes which has befallen the region of Puglia and follows a prolonged period of drought which has affected the same areas,

Requests:

1. - that the region of Puglia be urged to complete at the earliest the legal requirements needed to apply the measures and implement the aids called for which the meeting of the mayors of the communes of Bari held in Noicattaro called on 23 August 1982;
2. - that a fund be set up for the development of alternative forms of employment for agricultural workers;
3. - that other Community measures supplementing those at regional and state level be drawn up to create a structure for planning and implementation of projects in the agricultural sector of this region;
4. - instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

DOCUMENT 1-751/82

tabled by Mr SEAL, Mr MEGAHY, Mr LOMAS, Mr BOYES and Ms CLWYD
pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on special aid to the people of Todmorden, West Yorkshire, affected by
severe flood damage in June 1982

The European Parliament,

- A. deeply concerned and shocked by the devastating damage caused to culverts and watercourses running under 90 houses,
 - B. appalled at the resulting damage to homes in the vicinity of this watercourse,
 - C. concerned that the culvert damage cannot be recouped from insurance,
 - D. concerned that the local authority are not in a position to finance the repair of the damage,
 - E. concerned by the disruption to community activities, great hardship and inconvenience caused to inhabitants,
 - F. bearing in mind that until repairs and clearance have been carried out, the threat of further flooding is imminent,
1. Calls on the Commission of the European Communities
- (a) to make available, as a matter of urgency, the sum of £400,000 for the clearance of culverts and watercourses,
 - (b) to also make available further aid of £1.5 million to carry out improvements to the culverts and watercourses to prevent the recurrence of such a disaster,
 - (c) to provide sufficient funds, of up to a maximum of £2 million to compensate uninsured owners for flood damage already sustained;
2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

DOCUMENT 1-1073/82

tabled by Mr ROMUALDI, Mr ALMIRANTE, Mr BUTTAFUOCO and Mr PETRONIO
pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on the damage caused by the landslide of 13 December 1982 in Ancona

The European Parliament,

- A having regard to the serious damage caused by the enormous landslide which demolished the Borghetto and Posatora districts of Ancona,
 - B noting that the geological disturbance has made more than five thousand people homeless,
 - C emphasizing the difficulty experienced by the rescue-workers in bringing first aid owing to the fact that the Via Aemilia on the one hand and the Adriatic railway line on the other were blocked,
 - D noting that the water supply system and the telephone lines of a large part of the town have in part been destroyed,
 - E having regard to the fact that two of the buildings which were destroyed were medical centres; the National Old People's Home and Hospital and the Oncology Centre,
 - F shocked by the long series of natural disasters which have continually occurred in the Ancona region: the earthquake of 1929, two floods in the 1950's and, in addition, the terrible earthquake of 1972,
1. Expresses its solidarity with the inhabitants of the affected area;
 2. Hopes that the Community will provide emergency financial assistance so as to provide at least in part for the needs of the population;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

