

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-239/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr MERTENS, Mrs SCHLEICHER,  
Mr ALBER, Mr McCARTIN, Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE,  
Mr DEL DUCA, Mr PROTOPAPADAKIS, Mr VERROKEN,  
Mr GHERGO, Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN, Mr HELMS,  
Mr BROK and Mrs RABBETHGE on behalf of the  
Group of the European People's Party  
(Christian-Democratic Group)

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on air pollution



The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Convention of 13 November 1979 on long-range transboundary air pollution,
- having regard to the Council Directive of 15 July 1980 on air quality limit values and guide values for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates,
- having regard to the Third Community Environmental Protection Programme, paragraph 21 of which refers to this problem,
- having regard to the report by Mr Muntingh on the combating of photochemical pollution,
- having regard to the report by Mr Mertens on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision establishing a reciprocal exchange of information and data from networks and individual stations measuring air pollution within the Member States,
- having regard to Written Question No. 1509/81 by Mrs Schleicher on the reduction of sulphur emissions,
- whereas it is becoming increasingly difficult for individual countries acting alone to solve the problems of air pollution,
- having regard to the serious health hazards which may arise especially for those living in conurbations and large cities,
- having regard to the alarming reports of diseases afflicting forests throughout Europe (causing the death of fir, spruce and pine and the drought injury to beech crowns), particularly in Bavaria, the Black Forest, the Stolling and Harz Mountains and elsewhere in the Community Member States in central and southern Europe,
- having regard to the considerable damage caused to buildings by sulphur compounds,
- whereas the construction of high stacks has reduced the problem in the localities concerned (smog hazard), but, at the same time, has led to new and as yet unexplored hazards and ravages as a result of the long distance covered by the pollutants,
- whereas a solution at European level would be of particular value, especially for those living near the frontiers of Member States,



- having regard to the problems caused by discrepancies in the legal systems of the various Member States and their as yet differing requirements concerning air pollution,

1. Urgently calls on the Commission to:

- (a) propose as quickly as possible a directive establishing uniform discharge values for the major air pollutants
- (b) and, where technically feasible, fixing uniform limits for the emission of air pollutants by various types of industrial establishments,

working from the principle that such emissions must be limited at their source.

Priority should be given to the installation of waste gas desulphurization apparatus in power stations and industrial plant with high discharges.

- (c) Urges that these discharge and emission values be accompanied by uniform provisions on measurement and evaluation.
- (d) Recommends that, in addition to SO<sub>2</sub>, such provisions should cover the other main gaseous compounds and the heavy metal particulates (such as cadmium, zinc, chromium, nickel and lead).

Uniform Community provisions on these major air pollutants also appear to be urgently necessary to avoid distortion of competition.

Since requirements vary from one Member State to another, the corresponding burden on industry differs accordingly.

2. Calls on the Commission to implement a programme of research with the aim of establishing reliable long-term discharge values for all the air pollutants concerned, numbering approximately 300 - 600, since scientists are as yet unable to prescribe such values for the existing plethora of pollutant substances.

