

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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17 SEPTEMBER 1981

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by M. VANDEMEULEBROUCKE

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the dumping of nuclear waste in the sea

The European Parliament,

- noting that the Belgian and Dutch governments have had some seven thousand tonnes of radioactive waste dumped in the Atlantic Ocean,
  - noting that the United Kingdom resorts to similar dumping,
  - noting that the shipment also included waste from the Community's Joint Research Centre,
  - considering that there is inadequate evidence that this waste will not subsequently leak from its containers, endangering the marine environment,
  - noting the reports of leakages from some containers before shipment,
  - noting that workers on the dumping vessels are exposed during the operation to levels of irradiation exceeding admissible annual norms,
  - given the claims of the biologist William Jackson Davis that one third of the drums containing the waste are likely to break open at once as a result of high pressures at the sea floor,
  - noting the mounting public concern and opposition particularly in the Netherlands and Belgium about this dumping,
  - noting that a number of Member countries have given up the dumping of waste in the sea because of the uncertainty about the threat of marine pollution,
1. Calls on the governments involved to suspend at once the dumping of nuclear waste in the sea;
  2. Calls on the Commission of the European Communities to ensure that waste from the Joint Research Centre is not dumped in the sea;
  3. Instructs its Committee on Environment Public Health and Consumer Protection to undertake a full examination of the case for and against dumping of nuclear waste at sea;
  4. Instructs its Legal Affairs Committee to advise on the compatibility of such dumping with Euratom Treaty requirements about protection of the environment and of the public, and with other international commitments about marine pollution;
  5. Instructs its President to convey this resolution to the Commission, the Council of Ministers and the member governments.