

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK,
Mr BOMBARD and Mr MUNTINGH

pursuant to Rule 47 of the
Rules of Procedure

on the plans for a yacht marina on the
periphery of the Zwin reserve

The European Parliament

- A - disturbed by the plans of a private group, the 'Ontwikkelings- en Investerings- maatschappij' (Development and Investment Company), to construct a yacht marina covering 25 hectares for a thousand yachts and a lake village with 900 dwellings at Knokke-Heist, near Zwin,
- B - noting that the promoters' objective is to attract two million people each year,
- C - whereas these dunes (the Zwin woods) constitute a unique landscape and are marked on the Brugge - East Coast regional plan as an area of scientific interest or nature reserve,
- D - having regard to the provisional classification of this area and the favourable opinion of the Royal Commission on Monuments and the Countryside,
- E - whereas these dunes provide a habitat for more than 250 species of plants and form an ideal breeding, resting and overwintering area for numerous species of birds,
- F - having regard to the Council Directive of 2 April 1979 (79/409/EEC)¹ on the conservation of wild birds,
- G - having regard to the Council Decision of 3 December 1981 (82/72/EEC)² concerning the conclusion of the Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats,
- H - having regard to the Council Decision of 24 June 1982 (82/461/EEC)³ on the conclusion of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals,
- I - having regard to the positive statements by the Flemish Community Minister for Planning in the Flemish Council,
1. Points out that the plans for a luxury yacht marina threaten the last remaining large area of dunes on the East coast of Belgium;
 2. Is convinced that these plans jeopardize the existence of the Zwin reserve itself, which is a unique European bird and nature reserve;
 3. Draws attention to the danger of a serious dispersal of sand which could be caused by the construction of a large yacht marina and which could disturb the dynamic balance of the beaches in Belgium and the Netherlands;

¹ OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p.1

² OJ L 38, 10.2.1982, p.1

³ OJ L 210, 19.7.1982, p. 10

4. Urges the competent authorities to take a final decision on the classification of this area as quickly as possible;
5. Calls further on the competent authorities not to make any alterations to the regional plan which would change the status of the dunes to allow the construction of a yacht marina;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Flemish Regional Government.

