

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1980 - 1981

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12 February 1981

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr MUNTINGH

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on cooperation between the European Community  
and the Council of Europe

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

- having noted the communication concerning the progress made in connection with the environment action programme and the assessment of the work done to implement it, forwarded by the Commission to the Council in document COM (80) 222 final,
- welcoming the progress achieved in the implementation of the said programme and the scope of the projects prepared by the Commission in this connection,
- aware, on the one hand, of the volume and complexity of the many tasks incumbent on the European Community in this matter,
- aware, on the other hand, of the restricted means available to the Commission for carrying through these tasks,
- aware also of the many measures already undertaken or being prepared in other international bodies, particularly in Europe, where the Council of Europe has been working on environmental protection measures since the 1960s,
- sharing the fear, expressed on 27 January 1981 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Recommendation 910 (1981), that the proliferation of measures adopted by the international organizations and the countries concerned, however praiseworthy they might be, could well lead to confusion at the planning stage and to duplication of work resulting in loss of time and money at the implementation stage,
- welcoming the request addressed to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Recommendation 910 (1981) to the effect that it should bring together representatives of the various international organizations operating in Europe and concerned with the protection of the environment with a view to achieving the desired level of coordination between their activities, and that it should instruct a consultant expert to prepare a study on the duplication of work in this field,
- drawing attention to the geographical characteristics of the Council of Europe, to which the 10 Member States of the European Community belong,
- anxious to ensure that the environmental policies adopted by the European Community and the Council of Europe are harmonized and that the efforts made by these two organizations do not overlap,

- in the hope that the cooperation between the relevant departments of the Commission and the Council of Europe, and the coordination of the various existing activities in the field of the protection of the natural environment, can be intensified and improved,
- drawing attention in this connection to the measures undertaken by the Council of Europe and listed in the annex,
- earnestly requesting the Commission, when it implements its projects, to take into account the results of the parallel measures undertaken by the Council of Europe and, when planning new projects, to take account of the measures already being implemented or prepared by that organization,

To that end:

1. Hopes that, in the spirit of Recommendation 910 (1981) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, inter-secretariat contacts between the department responsible for the environment and consumer protection at the Commission on the one hand and the directorate for the environment and local authorities at the Council of Europe on the other, will be institutionalized and intensified;
2. Hopes that, in the same way as the Commission participates as an observer in all meetings of the Council of Europe, the latter will be invited to send observers, where feasible, to meetings of experts which are arranged by the European Community and are of direct interest to the Council of Europe, and that this system of representation might even be extended, if possible, to meetings connected with Community legislation;
3. Hopes that a formula can be found for regular mutual consultations and exchanges of information between the members of the relevant committees of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly;
4. Invites the Commission to consider the possibility of cooperating, by means of financial assistance, in certain of the Council of Europe's activities which are also of interest to the European Community - for example, the efforts made to involve certain developing countries in the application of the convention on the conservation of wild life and the natural environment in Europe;
5. Invites the Commission to propose suitable measures concerning the staff and funds made available to the department responsible for the environment and consumer protection with a view to enabling it to take effective action on the wishes expressed above.