

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

9 February 1981

DOCUMENT 1-870/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COPPIETERS and Mr CAPANNA

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the nuclear accident at La Hague

PE 71.301

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 33 of the Euratom Treaty, which requires the Member States to respect safety standards for the protection of the public,
- having regard to Article 39(5) of Directive 76/579 of 1 June 1976, which requires the authorities of the Member States to inform the Commission and neighbouring countries in the event of an accident involving exposure of the public to the risk of radiation,
- whereas the nuclear waste processing installation at La Hague in France, which reprocesses the nuclear waste from power stations in several Member States under contract and extracts the plutonium required for the operation and annual refuelling of the Super Phenix fast-breeder reactor at Creys Malville, which is financed jointly by France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Italy and the United Kingdom, is a key factor in the Community's nuclear strategy,
- concerned at the series of accidents which have occurred at La Hague in recent months, in particular the incident of 6 January 1981, which, according to the information available, led to a leak of radiation at the site far exceeding the maximum permissible level and contaminated the surrounding area,
- aware of the difficulties involved in the industrial application of uranium oxide waste reprocessing,

CALLS ON the Commission of the European Communities:

1. to urge the French authorities to respect their obligations regarding the provision of information on nuclear accidents;
2. to organize as a matter of urgency, in conjunction with the French authorities, an independent inquiry into the short- and long-term effects of the accident of 6 January at La Hague on the health of the local population;
3. to present to the European Parliament as soon as possible a general report on the situation at the installations at La Hague, notably as regards:
 - (1) working conditions;
 - (2) accidents in 1980 and 1981, their causes and the implications for the health and safety of the workers and the local population;
 - (3) the results of the application of the PUREX procedure for the reprocessing of uranium oxide waste, the difficulties encountered

and the resulting working conditions;

- (4) the potential quantities of waste which can be reprocessed and the amounts of plutonium which can be extracted, particularly in relation to the commitments entered into with other Community countries and the credibility of the fast-breeder reactor option.