Resolution on the floods in central European countries, in particular Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, and in France

2010/2713(RSP) - 16/06/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 530 votes to 7 with 5 abstentions a resolution on the floods in central European countries, in particular Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, and in France.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled in the form of a joint resolution by the S&D, ECR, GUE/NGL, ALDE, and EPP groups.

Parliament expresses its empathy and solidarity with the inhabitants of the regions affected by the disasters, takes due note of the possible serious economic effects, and pays its respects and extends its condolences to the families of the victims. It also acknowledges the relentless efforts made by search-and-rescue units to save lives and reduce the damage in the affected areas and applauds the actions of the Member States that provided assistance to the areas affected, as European solidarity is exemplified by **mutual assistance in adverse situations**.

The resolution calls on the Commission and the Member States to review **planning, sustainable land use policies**, ecosystem absorption capacities and best practices in the light of the increased risks of flooding stemming from the way land, habitats and drainage systems are managed and to increase the capacity of flood-control and drainage infrastructure in order to limit the damage caused by extreme rainfall.

It calls on the Member States and regions affected by the disasters to pay particular attention to the **sustainability of their respective reconstruction plans** and to consider the feasibility of long-term investment in Member States' disaster-prevention and response policies.

It calls on the Member States to fulfil the requirements laid down in and to implement the EU Floods Directive and stresses that flood-**risk maps should be taken into account in territorial planning management**.

It considers that effective flood prevention has to be based on **cross-border strategies** and encourages neighbouring Member States to step up their cooperation in dealing with prevention of natural disasters, thereby ensuring that the best possible use is made of EU funds allocated for this purpose.

It calls on the Commission and the Member States to provide support for the areas affected by the economic and social impact of the disasters in the swiftest possible manner.

Parliament reiterates that a **new EUSF regulation**, based on the Commission proposal, is vitally needed in order to address the problems caused by natural disasters in a more flexible and effective way and criticises the fact that the Council has blocked the proposal, even though Parliament adopted its position by an overwhelming majority at first reading in May 2006.

It urges the Belgian Presidency and the Commission to seek a solution without delay in order to **reactivate the revision of this regulation**, with a view to creating a stronger and more flexible instrument which will be able to respond effectively to the new challenges of climate change.

It also calls on the Commission to:

- provide support, along with the Member States, for the areas affected by the economic and social impact of the disasters in the swiftest possible manner;

- take steps immediately to ensure that the financial resources required are disbursed as swiftly, effectively and flexibly as possible by the EUSF, following the submission by national and regional authorities of their respective reconstruction plans,
- be open and flexible when negotiating with national and regional authorities the revision of the regional operational programmes for the period 2007-2013 financed from the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund and to proceed with this revision as soon as possible,
- take into account the differences between the regions affected, which include mountain and riverside areas, with a view to assisting the victims in the best possible manner.