# Displaced persons: temporary protection

1997/0081(CNS) - 20/11/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament after reconsultation

In adopting the report by Mr Jan WIEBENGA (ELDR, NL) on the second consultation of Parliament on temporary protection of displaced persons, Parliament particularly stressed the following points: -the joint action must be regarded as supplementing the Geneva Convention and be invoked only in emergencies where there was a sudden mass influx into the European Union of refugees requiring international protection; -the duration and extent of temporary protection would be geared to the situation (as regards duration, Parliament particularly suggested that it should not exceed a total of 5 years); -priority would be assigned to voluntary repatriation, when it came to organising the return of displaced persons, in strict conformity with human dignity and in close cooperation with the international organisations concerned, and in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; -a distinction was to be made between the concept of 'a balance between the efforts of the Member States' and 'solidarity' (Parliament saw the European Refugee Fund as the instrument of this Community solidarity); -the Council was called upon to provide a more precise definition for the adoption of long-term protection measures based on the report by the Commission on the consequences of the automatic expiry of a temporary protection regime; -those to be afforded temporary protection would be distributed in accordance with a formula determined between the Member States, taking account of their economic situation, area and reception capacity; -Parliament would be consulted on measures to apply the joint action. Parliament stressed that beneficiaries of temporary protection must be duly informed in their language and in the language of the host country. Nobody could be returned to a country where he might be tortured or subjected to other inhumane treatment.