Central America: Community action plan for the reconstruction

1999/2114(COS) - 15/06/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Pedro MARSET CAMPOS (GUE/NGL, Spain) on the reconstruction of Central America. Hurricane Mitch has exacerbated the structural problems which already exist in the region. The Commission's proposal concerning the reconstruction plan is welcomed, but Parliament emphasised that reconstruction should operate in favour of the regional integration process, with a view to creating an interrelation between the natural resources and productive systems of the countries of the region. The Commission must create the necessary mechanism for reducing the vulnerability of the most exposed sectors and groups, strengthening their ability to deal with future catastrophes. Special attention must be given to promoting consultation between governments and civil society. Parliament emphasises the link between environmental pollution and natural disasters. Reconstruction and development strategies must take account of the principle of environmental sustainability. The EU and Member States must immediately ratify the Kyoto Protocol on the reduction of greenhouse gases. The Stockholm monitoring group must improve the cooperation of aid among cooperation bodies and the Commission should officially become a member of the group. Parliament urges the total and immediate cancellation of non-commercial debt, together with as large a cancellation as possible of commercial debts, in line with the Paris Club criteria. The Commission is requested to submit proposals for a significant increase in the budget for reconstruction aid, as well as measures to increase European Investment Bank funds for the region. Delays in the implementation of the Community Action Plan for the Reconstruction of Central America are deplored, and the Commission needs to allocate to it the necessary human resources. Parliament proposed further facilitating access to EU markets for products from the region, perhaps in the framework of the GSP or the reform of the EU's banana regime so as to encourage products produced in ecologically sustainable conditions. Honduras and Nicaragua are urged to give formal pledges to settle their conflict by peaceful means pending the ruling of the International Court of Justice. Special funds ought to be allocated to the mine-clearance programmes.