Basic information

2008/2585(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the natural disaster in China **Subject** 3.70.11 Natural disasters, Solidarity Fund **Geographical area** China	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/05/2008	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
21/05/2008	Debate in Parliament		Summary
22/05/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0232/2008	Summary
22/05/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
22/05/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2008/2585(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B6-0242/2008	21/05/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0250/2008	21/05/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0251/2008	21/05/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0252/2008	21/05/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0253/2008	21/05/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0270/2008	21/05/2008	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T6-0232/2008	22/05/2008	Summary

Resolution on the natural disaster in China

2008/2585(RSP) - 22/05/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of 21 May 2008, the European Parliament adopted, by 525 votes to 4 with 4 abstentions

a resolution on the natural disaster in China, when a severe earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter scale struck southwest China on 12 May 2008. The resolution had been tabled for consideration in plenary by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, UEN, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL groups.

Parliament expresses its sincere condolences to and solidarity with the people of China and the numerous victims, and expresses its sorrow for all those who are suffering the consequences of the earthquake. It welcomes the prompt response to the disaster by the Chinese authorities by means of their emergency operation. Members note with appreciation China's readiness to accept foreign assistance, and they call on the Chinese government to facilitate the work of humanitarian relief and volunteer organisations in distributing aid, and to ensure access to aid for all those in need.

The resolution urges the Council and Commission to provide emergency aid, technical assistance and reconstruction aid to the affected area. It emphasises the urgency of supplying primary emergency humanitarian aid through the ECHO programme, backed by a large and adequate budget. Parliament notes the arrival of the Commission's humanitarian aid expert in Chengdu to assess needs.

It supports the contribution which the Member States are making through the 'Civil Protection Mechanism', coordinated by the Commission, as well as other contributions to the relief efforts by the international community. Parliament welcomes the fact that the Chinese and foreign media are being allowed to provide detailed and accurate information on the disaster. It underlines the importance of good governance in preventing and preparing for possible natural disasters, and calls for development of technology for an effective early warning system to prepare populations to cope with earthquakes and other natural disasters.

Lastly, Parliament welcomes the international community's efforts to make available their best practice in civil emergency and disaster relief work in order to help China and its people who have been affected by the earthquake, and calls on the organisations involved to provide enough financial aid for the accomplishment of the commitments.