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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## Working Documents

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11 October 1976

DOCUMENT 334/76

### Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and  
Consumer Protection

on a proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council  
(Doc. 118/76) for a decision on the conclusion of a Convention on the protection  
of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and a protocol on the prevention of  
the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft

Rapporteur: Mr A. PREMOLI



By letter of 18 May 1976, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision on the conclusion of a Convention on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and a protocol on the prevention of the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection as the committee responsible.

On 24 June 1976 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mr Premoli rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meetings of 24 June and 27 September 1976.

At its meeting of 27 September 1976, the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement.

Present: Mr Della Briotta, chairman; Lord Bethell, vice-chairman; Mr Premoli, rapporteur; Mr Adams, Mr Behrendt (deputizing for Mr Guerlin), Mr Boano (deputizing for Mr Härzschel), Mr Concas (deputizing for Mr Walkhoff), Mr Creed, Mr Didier, Mr Gibbons, Mrs Iotti, Mr Willi Müller, Mr Noè, Mr Radoux (deputizing for Mr Molloy), Mr Spicer and Mr Springorum.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION .....	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT .....	6

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision on the conclusion of a Convention on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and a protocol on the prevention of the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council<sup>1</sup>,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 118/76),
- having regard to the report by the Committee on the Environment Public Health and Consumer Protection (334/76),

1. Refers to its resolutions of 14 December 1973<sup>2</sup> and 25 September 1974<sup>3</sup>;
2. Notes that the European Economic Community has already signed the Convention on 13 September 1976;
3. Believes that the ratification of this Convention by the European Economic Community will make an important contribution to closing the gap in the system of protection of the sea;
4. Considers that a unified approach by the Community in environmental matters is essential if effective action is to be taken;
5. Approves, therefore, the Commission's proposal.

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<sup>1</sup>OJ No. C 122, 3.6.1976, p.2

<sup>2</sup>OJ No. C 2, 9.1.1974, p.59

<sup>3</sup> OJ No. C 127, 18.10.1974, p.32

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. A conference on the prevention of marine pollution in the Mediterranean was held in Barcelona from 2 to 16 February 1976. The Commission was authorized by the Council to participate in the negotiations.

The Commission has proposed to the Council that the conclusions and agreements drawn up by the conference should be signed by the Community.

2. The conference adopted a Convention on the protection of the Mediterranean sea against pollution, two protocols and ten resolutions. The Community would only sign the Convention and one protocol relating to the prevention of the pollution of the Mediterranean sea by dumping from ships and aircrafts.

3. The Environmental Action Programme adopted by the Council in 1973 emphasizes the interest that the Community has in reducing marine pollution given the essential role of the sea in the conservation process. Considering that the Treaty of Rome does not provide the necessary powers in this area, the Commission feels that it is essential that the Community should sign this Convention.

4. Your committee has already drawn up two reports concerning the signing of the Paris Convention on the prevention of marine pollution from land-based sources (Martens Report Doc. 280/73 and Premoli Report Doc. 197/74). In the motion for a resolution of the latter report a hope was expressed that the Community would participate on similar terms in all future conventions and conferences concerned with the pollution of the Mediterranean. The arguments presented at that time are still valid and need not be repeated here.

5. There are two further arguments in favour of the Commission's proposal. Firstly, from a technical point of view, this Convention will fulfil a need which exists in the Community for a better system of protection of the Mediterranean sea, a sea particularly vulnerable to pollution, being closed, with very limited channels for changing its waters. Accession by the Community to the Convention at this point will avoid problems later on, when it would be necessary to receive the support of three-quarters of the signatories.

6. Secondly, this proposal is of immense political importance. The committee considers that the only effective action taken in this field will be action taken in a unified manner.

7. Your committee can, therefore, approve without any hesitation this proposal and expresses the hope that the provisions of the Convention will enter into force as soon as possible after signature.

