

RESOLUTION ON INFORMATION, CONSULTATION AND EQUAL RIGHT OF ACCESS WITH REGARD TO ACTIVITIES IN FRONTIER AREAS WHICH MAY HAVE TRANSFRONTIER EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

(ELD CONGRESS, COPENHAGEN, 12, 13 and 14 JUNE 1981)

THE CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

- noting that at many places in the Community economic and other activities which may have transfrontier effects 'on the environment are being undertaken in frontier areas without involving the citizens and authorities of the countries on the other side, and that this situation is a source of grave concern;

- considering that in their "Programme for Europe" the European Liberal Democrats impressed on the citizens of Europe that only a European approach would offer an effective guarantee against the transfrontier pollution of water, air and soil, and the impairment of the environment and living condition of the adjacent states, and that there must be procedures to allow all those groups of people whose future and living conditions are directly affected by these activities in border areas to make their views known;

- noting, furthermore, that differences between provisions in force in different Member States may give rise to unequal conditions of competition on the two sides of the border and thus .affect the operation of the Common Market;

1. Believes that economic and other activities in the frontier areas should be allowed to develop in a harmonious way, taking full account of environmental factors in these areas;

2. Believes that, in cases where such an activity may have significant transfrontier effects, other States must be kept informed of plans for activities of this kind and their possible consequences, and consultations must be held with the appropriate authorities of those Member States so that on the one hand care can be taken to ensure as far as possible, equal treatment for activities in border areas and on the other hand adverse effects for the environment on the other side of the border can be prevented;

3. Believes that the appropriate authorities of Member States must give citizens and organizations concerned on the other side of the border the same opportunity to participate in the .authorization procedures as they give their own citizens.

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4. Considers that procedures to this end should be formulated within the Community.
5. Asks the executive committee to include a report on this subject on the agenda of the next Congress.
6. Asks the Liberal and Democratic members of the European Parliament to act upon this resolution and to report back to the next Congress.

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