

RESOLUTION

adopted by the ELD/LDE Congress in Venice, 8 May 1982 on

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

The Congress of the European Liberals and Democrats,

Whereas

- the eco-system in the Venice lagoon is in a process of deterioration which is destroying its special nature as an area between sea and land,
- a particular feature of this process of deterioration is an increase in the frequency and scale of rises in the water level which flood the historic centres of the lagoon, thereby inflicting damage on living conditions, the economy and the physical structure of the centres themselves,
- the Italian Government has drawn up feasibility study and a preliminary project on the protection of the Venice lagoon against rises in the water level, whereby work would be carried out on the three channels between the sea and the lagoon involving the installation of permanent structures to narrow these channels, including a mechanism to close them during high tides,
- the aim of planners in the Venice region is to restore the balance between the sea, the lagoon and the land and to preserve the integrity of the 'lagoon system',

Considers

- that the feasibility study and preliminary project drawn up by the Italian Government would enable the historic centres of the lagoon to be protected from high tides and would preserve the physical and ecological integrity of the lagoon without increasing the level of pollution in its waters and without reducing the efficiency of the Venetian ports;
- that any measures taken in the lagoon should be aimed at reversing the current process of deterioration
- that a comprehensive programme to restore both the hydrogeological balance of the lagoon and the special features of its eco-system should therefore be set up, aimed particularly at bringing about a general reduction in tide levels;
- that such a programme must provide for thorough cleansing of the lagoon, the protection and strengthening of the coastline and the limiting of erosion, the reduction and monitoring of the depth of shipping channels in the lagoon, the resubmerging of the land recently reclaimed from the

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waters of the lagoon and the enclosed areas, and a ban on the transport of oil and oil products in the lagoon;

Calls on

the institutions of the community and the governments of the Member States

- to further any steps taken by the Italian Government, not least on the European market, to raise the funds needed to finance a comprehensive programme to restore the balance of the eco-system in the Venice lagoon, as described above;

- to promote and stimulate initiatives to return the Venice lagoon and the small islands which it contains to uses that are in keeping with the special features of their environment and with their historical and artistic background, recognizing that they form part of the permanent natural and cultural heritage of the peoples of Europe;

Instructs

its President to forward this resolution to the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council. and to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

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