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- D. whereas the mandate of Unpredep in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia expired on 28 February 1999,
- E. whereas the extension of Unpredep's mandate by the UN Security Council beyond 28 February has been vetoed by one of the permanent members, the People's Republic of China, a veto widely regarded as retaliation for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's establishment of diplomatic relations with Taiwan,
- F. stressing that if the United Nations is unable to carry out its prime task of securing peace and stability in the world, other ways and means will have to be sought and established to carry out this duty,
1. Deeply regrets the UN Security Council's failure to extend the mandate of Unpredep for a further six months until 31 August 1999, owing to a veto by the People's Republic of China;
 2. Stresses that the authority of the UN Security Council and the United Nations as a whole will be seriously weakened if decisions on its peace-keeping capacity are made contingent on narrow national interests;
 3. Calls on the People's Republic of China to reconsider its decision, both in the interests of continued stability in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to enable the UN Security Council to exercise its duties under the UN Charter;
 4. Calls, in the absence of a positive decision by the UN Security Council, on the European Union and its Member States, in cooperation with the OSCE, NATO and the Western European Union, to take over the tasks so far carried out by Unpredep;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, OSCE, NATO, WEU and the governments of the People's Republic of China and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

9. Avalanches

B4-0241, 0242, 0255, 0267 and 0304/99

Resolution on the avalanche disasters in the Alps

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the avalanche disasters which have recently occurred in parts of the French, Italian and Austrian Alps, and in particular in Galtür in the Paznauntal, Tyrol,
 - B. dismayed at the large number of lives which these natural disasters have claimed,
 - C. impressed at the cross-border aid measures which resulted in the evacuation of 16 000 people,
 - D. whereas, in addition to the lives lost, not only have the avalanches caused immediate damage to property and the environment, but the regions affected have also suffered long-term economic disadvantages as a result of the drop in the number of overnight visitors and the harm to their image,
 - E. whereas tourism is economically very significant in the areas affected, and whereas the preservation of an orderly, intact landscape is of prime importance for the sustainable development of the tourist industry,
1. Extends its sincere condolences to the families of the victims and the people affected by the avalanche disasters;
 2. Calls on the local and regional authorities to do everything in their power to improve avalanche safety in Alpine valleys; points out that, in this connection, efforts should also be made to review regional planning policy and renew and care more effectively for protective woodland;

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3. Is aware that substantial funding will be required to restore avalanche barriers and remedy the damage suffered to property; calls on the Commission, therefore, as far as possible to support the regions concerned in funding the requisite measures and further-reaching avalanche protection projects;
4. Calls on the Commission, in that connection, to support the regions and local authorities concerned, in particular as regards the targeted use of existing aid, and to grant them every possible assistance;
5. Calls on the Commission, further, to consider whether, through the reallocation of budget appropriations or any other budgetary measures, funding can be made available in order to provide the regions affected in Chamonix, Val d'Aosta and Tyrol/Vorarlberg with economic assistance;
6. Calls on the Commission to release appropriations to support a central, international avalanche research centre;
7. Calls on the Member States concerned to implement in full the Convention on the Protection of the Alps;
8. Regrets the fact that decisions to award planning permission in mountain areas do not always comply with the safety rules in force and that those rules are not updated more frequently in keeping with the steady deterioration of the mountain ecosystem;
9. Calls on the competent authorities in the Member States to ensure that rigorous studies are carried out before planning permission is granted for building residential areas;
10. Insists that manufacturers of the apparatus used for searching out victims buried in the snow should improve the functioning of these appliances, which still display serious defects;
11. Calls on the Member States and local authorities to conduct multilingual information campaigns aimed at tourists and urges them to implement more effective and independent mountain risk prevention policies;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments and regions of the Member States concerned and Switzerland.

10. Trans-European energy networks ***I

A4-0087/99

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision No 1254/96/EC laying down a series of guidelines for trans-European energy networks (COM(98)0542 – C4-0556/98 – 98/0284(COD))

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSION (*)

AMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

(Amendment 1)

Article 1(1)

1. points c8, f1, g7 and h11 are amended as indicated in Annex I to this Decision;

1. points **c6**, c8, f1, g7 and h11 are amended as indicated in Annex I to this Decision;

(*) OJ C 320, 17.10.1998, p. 12.