



ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΙ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΟ ΕΥΡΟΠΕΟ ΕΥΡΟΠΣΚΪ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ ΕΥΡΟΡΑ-ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΕΤ  
ΕΥΡΟΡΆΙΣΧΕΣ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ ΕΥΡΟΟΡΑ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΕΥΡΟΡΕΑΝ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ  
ΠΑΡΛΕΜΕΝΤ ΕΥΡΟΡΈΕΝ ΠΑΡΛΑΙΜΙΝΤ ΝΑ ΗΕΟΡΡΑ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΟ ΕΥΡΟΠΕΟ ΕΙΡΟΡΑΣ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΣ  
ΕΥΡΟΡΟΣ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΑΣ ΕΥΡÓΡΑΙ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ ΙΛ-ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ ΕΥΡΟΡΕΥΕΥ ΕΥΡΟΡΕΕΣ ΠΑΡΛΕΜΕΝΤ  
ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ ΕΥΡΟΡΕΥΣΚΙ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΟ ΕΥΡΟΡΕΥ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΥΛ ΕΥΡΟΡΕΑΝ  
ΕΥΡÓΡΣΚΥ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ ΕΥΡΟΡΣΚΙ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ ΕΥΡΟΟΡΑΝ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΤΙ ΕΥΡΟΡΑΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΕΤ

**European Parliament**  
**Committee on Regional development**

Draft speech for Ms Danuta Hübner,  
Chairwoman of the Committee on Regional Development  
on the situation in Madeira

*Plenary, February 2010*

I would like to express the sorrow felt by all Members of the Regional Development Committee at the terrible loss of life in Madeira and our intention to do all we can to assist Madeira in its hour of need.

Of course the national and regional authorities are already doing their utmost to relieve the difficulties encountered by the people and especially those who have been left homeless and we urgently await their request for European assistance through the European Solidarity fund. I am sure it will be treated with the utmost expediency by all concerned.

We ask the European Commission to mobilise all its resources and to review, with the Portuguese authorities how the ongoing European programmes can be adjusted to assist the region.

Let me emphasize that the existing Solidarity Fund continues to have its well known limitations.

In April 2005 the European Commission adopted a proposal for a revision of the Regulation, which has been adopted by the European Parliament in first reading in May 2006.

Despite the undeniable usefulness of a more flexible Solidarity Fund, despite the necessity to extend its ambit of operations to cover unforeseen manmade disasters and criminal acts as well as natural ones, the Council has been unable to reach a common position on the revision of the Solidarity Fund since May 2006.

In the light of the terrible events in Madeira, we see more clearly than ever that we need a Solidarity Fund which could effectively meet the challenges and allow the Union to deliver prompt and effective assistance when Member States suffer a disaster.

I would therefore call on the Spanish Presidency to re-launch the process of amending the Solidarity Fund, proving this way that the spirit of real European solidarity remains at the heart of the European project.