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European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

14 January 1980

DOCUMENT 1-659/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr GLINNE
on behalf of the Socialist Group

with a request for early vote
pursuant to Rule 47(5) of the Rules of Procedure

to wind up the debate on oral question 1-616/79

on the employment situation in the Community

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The European Parliament,

- recognising that priority must be given to the attainment of full employment in Europe since unemployment, which is steadily mounting, and has already thrown more than 6 million people - one-third to more than one half of whom, depending on the country, are women - on the dole and offers no future to young people, constitutes an immense waste; our most urgent task is to restore the dignity of the workers of the Community.

For this reason all major economic choices, whether they concern working hours - reduction in which would help to provide new jobs - the pattern of growth, options in industrial and regional planning or the development of public services and collective interests, must be governed by the efforts to provide full employment. Such measures would be in full accord with a policy to overcome all the structural and cyclical causes of inflation.

- believing that

a considerable reduction in the working day and working week is an essential first step towards the creation of new jobs. The Community and the Member States must accept the need to introduce a 35-hour working week without reducing wages and accordingly work towards this end. Other solutions must include, in addition to measures adopted by collective agreement, a reduction in regular overtime and, in countries where such legislation exists, the reduction of legally permitted working hours;

- similarly, an effort should be made to increase paid annual leave and to provide more flexible pension schemes permitting retirement on full pension before the age laid down by law or contracts of employment;
- the Community as a whole should also aim at introducing an additional shift in round-the-clock or shift work. This would improve the most difficult working conditions and stimulate the creation of new jobs;
- to this end negotiations should be initiated at the appropriate levels with a view to drawing up a timetable for the reduction of working hours and to finding ways and means of introducing an additional shift, taking account of all the variables: humanization of working conditions, creation of new jobs, the utilization of capacity to the full and the need to remain competitive.

The European Parliament, in view of these considerations,

1. Calls on the Commission to take immediate steps to draw up a framework tripartite agreement or a directive for the purpose of promoting negotiations in all sectors to decide on a programme containing all appropriate measures to reduce working hours;
2. Requests the Commission to step up its efforts to protect workers' rights at factory level, to improve working conditions and the rights of trade unions, and to take as its model the most favourable work regulations in the Community;
3. Regards as indispensable the implementation of a policy on adult education from which all workers can benefit. Special programmes should be set up for young workers seeking their first job, women who return to the labour market or enter it for the first time and for persons wishing to prepare for retirement;
4. Takes the view that a lasting improvement in the employment situation involves reviving demand based on unsatisfied traditional needs and on new needs connected with the quality of life and public services. This means seeking a different form of growth. For this reason there is an urgent need to encourage in all the Member States, by means of medium-term planning, more public projects, the spread of new social amenities and technical innovations, the development of new energy and industrial policies and efforts to eliminate existing economic imbalances between individual regions. This alternative form of growth should include new relations with developing countries, based on the principle of equality and increased aid to these countries;
5. In the same spirit of solidarity, also calls on the Commission to promote Community actions and to coordinate national efforts in the fields of employment, training, housing, etc., designed to benefit migrant workers and their families;
6. Regards as indispensable public control of large-scale industrial concentrations, undertakings occupying dominant positions on the market and multinational firms. Similarly, investment decisions must be made subject to the right of information and inspection by each state and by the workers concerned;
7. With a view to making Community action in these areas more effective, urgently calls for the coordination of the different instruments at the disposal of the EEC: the Regional Fund, the Social Fund, the EAGGF, industrial actions and the financial operations undertaken by the Community and the European Investment Bank.

