



European Communities

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

# **WORKING DOCUMENTS**

English Edition

1985-86

3 July 1985

SERIES A

DOCUMENT A 2-73/85

**REPORT**

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development and  
Cooperation

on the institution of a solidarity with Third World  
Children Week

Rapporteur: Mrs K. PANTAZI

WG(2)1931E  
Fr.-sr

PE 98.021/fin.



At its sitting of 13 November 1984 the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr AVGERINOS, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on the institution of a solidarity with Third World Children Week (Doc. 2-916/84) to the Committee on Development and Cooperation.

At its meeting of 16 January 1985 the committee decided to draw up a report and appointed Mrs PANTAZI rapporteur. The committee considered the draft report at its meeting of 25 and 26 June. It unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution contained in the report on 26 June 1985.

The following took part in the vote: Mrs Focke, chairman; Mr Bersani, vice-chairman; Mrs Pantazi, rapporteur; Mr Battersby (deputizing for Mr de Courcy Ling), Mr Cassidy (deputizing for Mr Simpson), Mrs Cinciari Kodano, Mr Cohen, Mrs Daly, Mrs De Backer-Van Ocken, Mrs Dury, Mr Habsburg (deputizing for Mr Wawrzik), Mrs Heinrich, Mr C. Jackson, Mr Kuijpers, Mr Muntingh (deputizing for Mr Fellermaier), Mr Newman (deputizing for Mr Saby), Mrs Pery, Mr Pirkl, Mrs Rabbethge, Mr Remacle (deputizing for Mr Baget Bozzo), Mrs Schmit, Mrs Simons, Mr Tomlinson (deputizing for Mr McGowan) and Mr Verbeek.

This report was tabled on 28 June 1985.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the institution of a Solidarity with Third World Children Week

The European Parliament

- having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr AVGERINOS (Doc. 2-916/84),
  - having regard to the operating budget of the European Communities and in particular its Article 941 on a Community contribution towards schemes concerning developing countries carried out by non-governmental organizations,
  - having regard to the operating budget of the European Communities and in particular its chapter 27 on expenditure on publishing and information,
  - having regard to Title VIII of the Third Convention of Lomé on cultural and social cooperation,
  - having regard to the report by the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. A 2-73/85),
- A. condemning the racist, protectionist and xenophobic tendencies which are occasionally found in the Member States of the Community,
  - B. aware that in the long term the Community and the Member States will not be able to maintain and certainly cannot increase their contribution to development without active support from a public which is fully informed and aware of the need for and justice of such a policy,
  - C. convinced of the need to educate and inform young Europeans at a very early age about the reality of the Third World because these young people will be the European citizens of tomorrow responsible for cooperation with developing countries, for the sake of both solidarity and the interdependence of North and South and, in the final analysis, in the interests of world peace,
  - D. whereas the task of informing the public in the field of development is mainly carried out by non-governmental organizations, thanks to financial support from the Community,
  - E. having regard to the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations (No. 34/151 of 17 December 1979) designating 1985 Youth Year,
  - F. having regard to the project for a European public campaign on North-South interdependence and global survival by the Council of Europe as a follow-up by the Assembly to the Lisbon Declaration on 'North-South: Europe's role' (Lisbon 9-11.4.1984),
  - G. drawing attention to the work of its ad hoc committee on information which is preparing an information campaign and considering which themes should have priority,

1. Calls for the organization in every Member State of a week of solidarity between European children and young people and children and young people from the Third World under the auspices of the Community with a view to informing European public opinion, on the broadest possible basis, of the problems faced by children in developing countries;
2. With this end in view, calls on the Commission to mobilize the necessary resources and to give a boost to the organization of an information campaign by using the resources available for such measures in the 1985 budget;
3. Calls on non-governmental organizations to set aside a part of their resources for the financing in developing countries of projects drawn up by youth organizations in these countries or laying down special measures to help young people, especially girls, in the fields of education and health in particular;
4. Welcomes the opportunity provided by Article 119 of the Third Convention of Lomé to give support to associations, twinning arrangements, exchanges and transfers of knowledge and techniques between universities and higher education establishments in the ACP countries and the Community and calls on the signatories of the Convention to make full use of this opportunity;
5. Attaches great importance to the European days organized in the schools of the Community and urges that subjects relating to North-South solidarity and interdependence also be covered as often as possible;
6. Calls on schools, youth associations and youth groups to step up their contacts with the children of foreign workers and other children and young people from the Third World who are living in Europe and to carry out with them activities to foster solidarity and make constant efforts to integrate them into our societies or facilitate their stay in our countries;
7. Proposes that the governments of the Member States make provision in their schools for one day per year devoted to development during which the distribution of brochures on specific aspects of the problem (for example health, food, education and training) might be organized; proposes in particular that school textbooks, especially reading books for younger schoolchildren, should contain more information than hitherto on the lives and needs of children in the Third World;
8. Declares its willingness to participate in the European public campaign advocated by the Council of Europe on North-South interdependence and global survival;
9. Instructs its ad hoc committee on information to take the fight against hunger in the world and the problem of the situation of children in the developing countries as a top priority theme for its information campaign;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities, to the governments of the Member States and to the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In the course of its work of monitoring the activities of the Community in the field of cooperation and development, the Committee on Development and Cooperation has on several occasions studied the question of informing and forming public opinion.

Our committee believes that the Community and the Member States cannot in the long term maintain, and certainly cannot increase their contribution to development (to reach the level of 0.7% decided on in 1970) without the active support of a public which is fully aware of the need for and justice of such a policy.

To date the task of informing public opinion in the field of development has mainly (apart from the activities of DG X - information) been carried out by the non-governmental organizations thanks to financial support from the Community. Thus in 1984 the latter had an appropriation of 3m ECU at their disposal for their campaign to raise public awareness.

The resolution tabled under Rule 47 by Mr AVGERINOS stems from the same awareness of the need to keep the citizens of the Community better informed about the nature of the problems of the Third World. It is however more specific in that it aims primarily to make young people more aware of the fate of children in the developing countries. In Mr AVGERINOS's view this greater awareness should be created through the organization of 'a solidarity with Third World children week' in the Community.

Your rapporteur is also convinced of the need to educate and inform young Europeans from a very early age about the reality of the Third World. For the young people of today will very soon be the European citizens responsible for cooperation with developing countries for the sake of solidarity and the interdependence of North and South and, in the final analysis, in the interests of world peace.

However your rapporteur would suggest that Mr AVGERINOS's motion be extended to cover more than the health situation of children in the developing countries. A week of solidarity between European children and Third World children should be organized in all the Member States under the auspices of the Community. The object would be to inform European public opinion on the broadest possible basis about all the problems faced by children in developing countries.

This campaign should go well beyond the purely emotional and tackle the underlying problems, structural causes and the connections between Community or national policies and the situation of developing countries and their children.

Once again the primary aim would be to inform and shape opinion so that certain facts, which hitherto have too often been clouded over by schematic and misleading over-simplification, sink into people's minds.

Further, the teaching material made available for this campaign should include examples of cooperation which has proved effective in that it achieved the desired aims with regard to development. This would serve to balance out reports which too often stress the negative results of certain forms of cooperation and thus help to misinform public opinion

We have already said that the objective of this campaign must be to provide information on the situation of children. Although UNICEF organizes campaigns every year in our countries to raise awareness of the fate of children in the developing countries, this fundamental and often particularly critical aspect of the situation in developing countries cannot be sufficiently stressed in an information campaign. The problems of the health, food, education and professional training of children in developing countries must be clearly presented and form the basis of the campaign. In this we share the view of Mr AVGERINOS as set out in his motion for a resolution.

With regard to the organization and financing of this campaign, your rapporteur, while proposing that it be placed under the auspices of the Community, is nonetheless quite aware of the budgetary restrictions. The funds available under Chapter 27 of the budget, limited as they are, should be mobilized to allow the Community to play its role as organizer. Similarly it should be possible to use resources from the Sixth EDF for cultural and social cooperation measures.

As all the resources of the Community and the EDF are too limited to allow action on any scale the cooperation of the Member States and organizations which have a certain amount of experience in this field should be secured. With regard to the latter we are thinking primarily of those non-governmental organizations which, as has already been pointed out, currently run campaigns to raise public awareness. In preparation for a Community campaign of solidarity with Third World children, the non-governmental organizations should set aside a part of their resources for the financing in developing countries of projects drawn up by organizations of young people in these countries, or laying down special measures to help young people, especially girls, in the fields of education and health in particular.

On these three pivots (Community - Member States - NGO) a relay would be set up, above and beyond the classic written and audiovisual information media, via a number of channels: schools, universities, youth organizations, feminist organizations, trade union organizations, socio-professional organizations, churches etc... All these bodies could make use of existing links with their counterparts in Third World countries in order to let them help to shape the message to be transmitted. In the absence of such links the organization of the information campaign would be a sufficient reason to forge them. Two objectives would thus be achieved: the participation of Third World organizations in the organization of the Community information campaign and the strengthening of links, and North-South contacts, through these bodies and associations.

The European schools could take on a pilot role, showing the way: European days in these schools devoted to the problem of development and the situation of children in the Third World, youth exchange programmes between developing countries and the Community, etc.....

All the measures proposed above are very modest; this is a result of the dilemma faced by your rapporteur, trapped between, on the one hand, his awareness of the need to improve standards of information and education of young people with regard to the situation of their counterparts in the developing countries and, on the other hand, of the fact that the budgetary resources available at Community level are severely limited.



MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (DOCUMENT 2-916/84)

tabled by Mr AVGERINOS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the institution of a solidarity with Third World Children Week

The European Parliament,

- A. considering that all endeavours by the Community in the field of development and cooperation with the Third World should be based on a demonstration of good will and a well-disposed attitude towards the long-suffering peoples concerned and on a practical humanitarian interest in the problems of health care confronting the children of the Third World,
- B. convinced that, alongside the Community programme to fight hunger in the Third World, there needs to be a more systematic campaign to reinforce and implement measures to prevent and combat the diseases rampant in these regions by sending them suitable medicaments and medical equipment,
- C. considering that the developing countries' principal requirements for medical supplies and equipment lie particularly in the field of prevention and in the combating of rudimentary but urgent situations,
- D. convinced of the need to make European public opinion increasingly aware of the health problems besetting the Third World and especially of the millions of children who die each year for want of medicaments and medical care,
  1. Calls for the institution, on a yearly basis, of a Week of Solidarity between the children of Europe and the children of the Third World, under the auspices of the European Communities, in the first two weeks of December and in each Member State of the Community, the aim being to inform the European public as widely as possible of the problems faced by children in the developing countries, especially problems of health;
  2. Calls for measures to be taken immediately to dispatch supplies of suitable supplies of medicaments and medical equipment and material as at least a token contribution to relieving their hardship;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the ten Member States of the Community.

