

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

1st October 1982

DOCUMENT 1-694/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr SCHALL, Mr BROK, Mr KLEPSCH,
Mr BLUMENFELD, Mr JANSSEN VAN RAAY, Mr HABSBERG,
Mr D'ORMESSON and Mr KONTIKAS

on behalf of the EPP Group (CD Group)

with request for topical and urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on the use of forced labour in the Soviet Union
for the construction of the USSR-Western Europe
gas pipeline

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the UN declaration on human rights,
 - having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights,
 - fearing that:
forced labour is being used in the USSR to build the projected USSR-Western Europe gas pipeline,
that nearly 100,000 convicts who are being used, according to reports, include 10,000 political prisoners, many of them women, and that they are working under inhuman conditions as regards climate, lodging, food and medical care,
 - having regard to the political and economic importance of the gas pipeline transaction,
 - convinced that human rights must not be subordinated to economic and political convenience,
 - aware that, in the past, the USSR has often used forced labour for large-scale construction projects,
1. Calls on the Commission and the Governments of the Member States concerned to investigate the accusation which has gained currency amongst the European public that forced labour is being used for the construction of the gas pipeline;
 2. Calls on the Commission and the Council to report to the European Parliament on this matter without delay;
 3. Requests that the implementation of the gas pipeline agreement be suspended until this accusation has been investigated;
 4. Considers it essential that the gas pipeline project should not be carried out if this accusation proves justified;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Governments of the ten Member States of the European Communities.