

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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DOCUMENT 1-769/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr SCHALL, Mr BROK, Mr KLEPSCH,
Mr BLUMENFELD, Mr JANSSEN VAN RAAY, Mr HABSBURG,
Mr D'ORMESSON and Mr GONTIKAS

on behalf of the Group of the European People's
Party (Christian-Democratic Group)

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the use of prison labour in the Soviet Union
for the construction of a gas pipeline between
the USSR and Western Europe

PE 81.153

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - B. having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights,
 - C. fearing that :
prison labour is being used in the Soviet Union for the construction of the gas pipeline which is to link the USSR with Western Europe, according to current information, some 100,000 prisoners, including 10,000 political detainees and a large number of women, are being used on this project and that this work is being done under inhuman conditions as regards the climate, accommodation, food and medical care,
 - D. having regard to the economic and political importance of the construction of this pipeline,
 - E. whereas human rights must under no circumstances be subjugated to economic or political considerations,
 - F. whereas the USSR has often used detainees to carry out major building projects in the past,
1. Calls on the Commission and the governments of the Member States concerned to verify the information circulating in Europe that prison labour is being used for the construction of the pipeline;
 2. Invites the Commission and the Council to report to it on this subject as soon as possible;
 3. Demands that the execution of the trade contracts relating to the construction of the pipeline be suspended until this matter has been clarified;
 4. Feels that these contracts should not be executed if the above information is found to be correct;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the ten Member States of the European Community.