

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

20 September 1983

DOCUMENT 1-721/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the loss of the Maison du Peuple in Brussels,
designed by Victor Horta, and the need to protect
the European social and cultural heritage

The European Parliament,

- A - noting that the Maison du Peuple in Brussels, one of the most internationally renowned examples of Art Nouveau architecture, was dismantled and demolished in 1965,
- B - noting that the wrought-iron work that was saved from the building and was still awaiting an appropriate use was finally sold as scrap (at Bfrs 2.50 a kilo) in July 1983,
- C - noting that this action has destroyed any hope of reconstructing the Maison du Peuple, which was designed by the architect Victor Horta,
- D - considering the important role that the Maison du Peuple has played in the social, political and cultural history of Europe,
- E - recalling its Resolution of 14 September 1982 on 'the protection of the architectural and archaeological heritage'¹,
 1. Points out that the loss of Victor Horta's Maison du Peuple again underlines the need urgently to put in hand a European register of protected monuments;
 2. Urges that there should be a statute for the European cultural and social heritage;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe and UNESCO.

¹OJ No. C 267, 11.10.82, p.25