

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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DOCUMENT 1-681/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs EWING

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on an action programme for the remote and sparsely
populated regions and islands

PE 80.907

The European Parliament,

- A - Whereas the remote and sparsely populated regions of the Community such as the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, Corsica and the West of Ireland are disadvantaged in many ways, none the least by their remoteness from decision-making centres where their problems are not always well understood,
- B - Whereas distances from major markets and high freight charges on raw materials and inputs effectively erode business profitability in these regions,
- C - Whereas the small and dispersed nature of local markets reduces the possibility of achieving economies of scale,
- D - Whereas, in addition, these regions suffer from deficiencies in their communication networks and in other essential infrastructures and aware of the difficulties which local authorities experience in raising the capital necessary for vital structural improvements,
- E - Whereas soaring fuel and transport costs have exacerbated these problems in recent years,
- F - Noting that the situation is generally worse in sparsely populated islands,
- G - Having regard to the Delmotte Report in the First Periodic Report on the Social and Economic Situation in the Regions and to the De Pasquale Report on the proposed revision of the E.R.D.F. Regulation,
1. Calls upon the Commission to conduct a special study on the Community's remote and sparsely populated regions and islands;
 2. Recommends that this study should concentrate on areas with population densities of less than 40 persons/km² and that it should include;
 - (i) a price survey which investigates the comparative costs (of food, consumer durables, housing and transport) and earnings in these regions in comparison with urban centres
 - (ii) a survey of the effects of Community membership and
 - (iii) an assessment of success of national regional development efforts;
 3. Suggests that on the basis of their findings, the Commission should come forward with appropriate proposals for an action programme in favour of the remote and sparsely populated regions and islands with a view to assisting these areas to obtain a fairer share of Europe's wealth;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the Council and the Commission.