

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983 - 1984

15 July 1983

DOCUMENT 1-589/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr BEUMER, Mr PENDERS and Mr JONKER

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on openness of government

PE 85.946

English Edition

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the European Community is a community of parliamentary democracies,
- B. whereas certain powers, including legislative powers, have been surrendered by the Member States to the European Communities,
- C. concerned at the obscure, lengthy and secretive procedures used in the formulation of European legislation, which do nothing to promote recognition and acceptance of the European Community by the people of the Member States,
- D. whereas Parliament does not yet play any decisive role in the formulation of Community legislation,
- E. concerned at the lack of openness in the decision-making procedures leading to the formulation of Community legislation,
- F. whereas Community legislation, which supersedes national legislation and is binding on all citizens of the Community Member States, cannot, by definition, in a Community of traditional parliamentary democracies, be formulated in camera,
- G. whereas, in a democratic system, openness should be the rule and secrecy the exception,
- H. whereas more open government would increase the possibilities of control and hence the influence of the European Parliament,

Requests the Commission to submit a memorandum to Parliament before the end of this session:

- setting out principles applicable to openness of government,
- itemizing the legal provisions of the individual Member States on openness of government and indicating the degree of openness of legislative processes within the European Community, the various Community organs and the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the extent to which more open government might be secured on the basis of the relevant national legislation,
- indicating the practical possibilities for achieving a greater degree of openness in the European Community.