

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

1 October 1979

DOCUMENT 1-377/79/rev.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by

Mr DIDO', Mr VETTER, Mr MOREAU, Mrs LIZIN,
Mr DELORS, Mr RUFFOLO, Mr LEZZI, Mr FERRI,
Mr SARRE, Mr ZAGARI and Mr COLLA
on behalf of the Socialist Group

with request for urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the directive on shorter working hours

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the rise in unemployment resulting from the general economic crisis and the restructuring in progress in certain industrial sectors,
 - pointing out that the reorganization of working time and more efficient utilization of the industrial apparatus were among the measures recommended by the Council of Employment and Social Affairs Ministers and endorsed by the European Council, as requested by the European Trade Union Confederation,
 - noting the detailed studies on the matter submitted by the Commission,
 - whereas the meetings between the social partners, in particular at Community level, have failed to resolve the situation, thereby opening up the prospect of increased social tension,
 - in view also of the impact which a new division of labour may have on the economies of the Member States and on the Community as a whole and, moreover, of the current divergence of the Member States' economies, which must be progressively harmonized through the introduction of 'Community instruments',
1. Requests the Commission, in accordance with the conclusions of the Council of Ministers for Social Affairs meeting in the Standing Committee on Employment on 22 May 1979, to submit, before the next Council meeting on 22 November, practical proposals which take account of the available studies and of consultations with the social partners, for an outline directive indicating the objectives and guidelines for the gradual introduction, adapted according to sector and country, of shorter working hours and the creation of new jobs to enable production levels to be maintained and increased; this policy should be pursued at both national and Community level ;
 2. Requests the Commission and Council to draft practical proposals in the field of social policy, active employment policy, parafiscal policy and financial aid aimed at encouraging the achievement of these objectives;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.

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JUSTIFICATION

In view of the deadline of 22 November 1979, Parliament should deliver an opinion on this matter at its October part-session with a view to guiding the Commission's work on a subject which affects tens of millions of European workers.