

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr GEURTSSEN, Mrs BOOT and Mrs Van den HEUVEL
pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on the location of the Community Trade Marks Office

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the proposal from the Commission for a Council regulation on Community trade marks (Doc. 1-682/80; OJ No. C 351, 31.12.1980, p.5) and in particular Article 99(3) thereof,
- B. having regard to the Community's obligation to use its available funds in the most rational possible manner,
- 1. Notes that the only consideration governing the decision on the location of the Community Trade Marks Office must be to ascertain which city is the most suitable from a number of different viewpoints;
- 2. Takes the view that the level of unemployment in a particular cannot be the only argument determining the location of the Trade Marks Office;
- 3. Considers it appropriate to locate the Trade Marks Office in a city which offers favourable conditions for its location and in particular an infrastructure suited to the work of the Office, a skilled workforce and a tradition in the field of intellectual property;
- 4. Considers it sensible to locate close to each other institutions whose activities are complementary and which perform related tasks;
- 5. Proposes therefore The Hague as the seat of the Community Trade Marks Office;
- 6. Points out that The Hague is a cosmopolitan city with excellent international contacts and connections (nearly all embassies and many international organizations have their headquarters there) and in addition offers the unique advantage that the Community Trade Marks Office can be linked up with the European Patents Office and the Benelux Trade Marks Office which are already located in that city, while, lastly 90% of the Netherlands' patent and trade mark agencies are also based there;
- 7. Draws attention to the fact that the location of the Community Trade Marks Office in The Hague - the city where at the 1948 Congress of Europe, eminent Europeans called for the political and economic unification of Europe - would be the first occasion in which that city had been selected as the seat of a Community organ.