

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983 - 1984

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DOCUMENT 1-668/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE, Mr SEITLINGER,
Mr HAAGERUP, Mr ZAGARI, Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI,
Mr BETTIZA, Mr PINTAT, Mr GEURTSEN, Mr ADONNINO,
Mr DAMSEAUX, Mr CECOVINI, Mrs von ALEMANN,
Mr ANTONIOZZI, Mr GHERGO and Mr DESCHAMPS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the consequences of the differences between the
electoral systems of the Member States

PE 86.582

The European Parliament,

- A. having noted the results of the elections in the United Kingdom on 9.6.83 and the way in which the British electoral system affects the ratio of votes obtained to seats allocated to each party,
 - B. recalling Petition No. 7/79 by Mr Russell Johnston, then leader of the British Liberals in the EP, which called for a uniform electoral system based on proportional representation, the justification given in it and the response of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions to it,
 - C. whereas such a system, applied by only one country in a multinational parliament, is proof to the representatives of the various countries in the European Parliament of a glaring discrepancy that has serious consequences for Parliament's internal equilibrium,
 - D. pointing out that if this system were applied in the same way to European elections, one quarter of the British electorate would again have no representative in the EP, a fact which is serious even without considering the views of those electors on the future of the Community,
- 1. Deplores the Council's failure to adopt the draft Act on a uniform electoral procedure for the election of Members of the European Parliament adopted by the EP on 10.3.1982;
 - 2. Is of the view that, until the Act is adopted, every effort should continue to be made to prevent discrepancies between systems for electing national representatives that are as radical as those foreseeable if the traditional British system were to be reconfirmed;
 - 3. Calls on the Council of Ministers, which has entirely failed to fulfil its obligations vis-à-vis the Treaty and Parliament, to reach the necessary agreement;
 - 4. Calls on the President-in-Office of the Council to take every possible initiative to ensure that differences between the various European electoral systems are at least reduced by national law;
 - 5. Instructs its President, with the assistance of the rapporteur on the electoral law, to take note of the preoccupation of the Parliament and to make all necessary contacts with the national parliaments to ensure that, there is at least some degree of equity and that differences in the electoral systems of the Member States are reduced;
 - 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Presidents and Speakers of national parliaments, the chairmen of the political groups and the governments of the Member States.