

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-754/83

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs
and Employment

on the communication from the Commission of the
European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-311/83 -
COM(83) 211 final) concerning a programme to promote
employment for young people, together with a draft
Council resolution

Rapporteur: Mrs H. SALISCH

PE 85.668/fin.

By letter of 11 May 1983, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the communication from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a programme to promote employment for young people together with a draft Council resolution.

On 18 May 1983, the President of the European Parliament referred this document to the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport and, on 7 July 1983, the Committee of Inquiry into the Situation of Women in Europe for an opinion.

At its meeting of 23 June 1983, the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment appointed Mrs SALISCH rapporteur.

This report is to be regarded as a supplement to the SALISCH report on the problem of unemployment among young people in the European Community¹.

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The committee considered the Commission's document at its meeting of 20 September 1983.

At this meeting, the committee decided unanimously to recommend to Parliament that it approve the Commission's draft Council resolution with the following amendments.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Peters (acting chairman), Mr Pattison (vice-chairman), Mrs Salisch (rapporteur), Mr Barbagli, Mr Brok, Mr Calvez, Mr Chanterie, Mrs Dury (deputizing for Mr Motchane), Mr Eisma, Mr Ghergo, Mr McCartin, Mrs Maij-Weggen, Mr Ouzounidis (deputizing for Mrs Duport), Mr Patterson, Mr Prag, Mr Simpson, Mrs Squarcialupi (deputizing for Mr Damette), Mr Van Minnen and Mr Vernimmen (deputizing for Ms Clwyd)

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¹OJ No. C 135, 24.5.1983, p.22

At its meeting of 20 September 1983, the committee then considered and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole.

The following were present: Mr Peters (acting chairman), Mr Pattison (vice-chairman), Mrs Salisch (rapporteur), Mr Barbagli, Mr Brok, Mr Calvez, Mr Chanterie, Mrs Dury (deputizing for Mr Motchane), Mr Eisma, Mr Ghergo, Mr McCartin, Mrs Maij-Weggen, Mr Ouzounidis (deputizing for Mr Vgenopoulos), Mr Patterson, Mr Prag, Mr Simpson, Mrs Squarcialupi, Mr Van Minnen and Mr Vernimmen.

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The opinions of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport and the Committee of Inquiry into the Situation of Women in Europe will be presented orally.

The explanatory statement is to be presented orally.

The final version of the report was tabled on 23 September 1983.

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The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments to the draft Council Resolution on the promotion of youth employment together with the following motion for a resolution:

Communication from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council concerning a programme to promote employment for young people, together with a draft Council Resolution (COM(83) 211 final)

Amendments tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment

Text proposed by the Commission of the European Communities

Recitals

unchanged

Recitals

The Council of the European Communities

having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

having regard to the draft Resolution presented by the Commission,

having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament,

having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas at their meetings in March and December 1982 and March 1983, the Heads of State and of Government underlined the need to give priority to the fight against youth unemployment and in particular to measures aimed at creating more job openings for young people;

Amendments tabled by the Committee on
Social Affairs and Employment

unchanged

Text proposed by the Commission of the
European Communities

Whereas the Council reiterated its profound concern regarding the continued high level of unemployment, particularly among young people, at the meeting of Ministers of Employment and of Social Affairs and at the Joint Meeting on 16 November 1982 of the Ministers of Economic and Financial Affairs and the Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs, and requested the Commission to present specific proposals aimed at encouraging the access of young people to employment and increasing the volume of jobs available to them.

Whereas the European Parliament has repeatedly stressed the need for action to promote equality of opportunity in the employment field, and more particularly to tackle the problem of youth unemployment;

Whereas the diversity of the situations facing young people and the variations in economic and social conditions in the Community are such as to necessitate the adoption of a broad range of measures;

Adopt this Resolution

unchanged

1. and notes that youth unemployment is a facet of the general employment situation and cannot be tackled in isolation from policies aimed at promoting a general economic recovery; acknowledge, however, that specific measures based on the guiding principles set out below should be adopted forthwith in view of the severity of the youth unemployment problem.

PE 85.668/A - paragraph 2

2. Confirms the need for coordinated action to be taken in collaboration with the two sides of industry at both national and Community levels, to give young people better employment opportunities and in the short term ensuring that young people have the opportunity to receive training leading to qualifications and to obtain employment.

2. Confirms the need for coordinated action to be taken in collaboration with the two sides of industry at both national and Community levels, to give young people better employment opportunities and in the short term ensuring that young people have the opportunity to undertake some form of worthwhile activity, whether remunerated or not.

PE 85.668/A - paragraph 3

3. Notes the Commission communication concerning the promotion of youth employment and asks Member States to overcome youth unemployment within two years by creating places on training courses and permanent jobs within a Community-wide programme to guarantee training and employment for young people between 16 and 25 years of age.

3. Notes the Commission communication concerning the promotion of youth employment and asks Member States to take all possible steps, particularly by promoting the creation of additional jobs with a view to bringing youth unemployment within the next five years to the average unemployment level.

PE 85.668/A - paragraph 4 and Amendment 1

4. Emphasises the need to envisage special measures for long-term unemployed young people to ensure that they are integrated into the labour market.
For this purpose the Council will direct its attention towards the following measures: the provision of information for young people, direct contact with working life, alternating training and employment and a combination of part-time work and further training.

4. Emphasises the need to envisage special measures for long-term unemployed young people that will provide them with a minimum period of stable employment.

PE 85.668/A - paragraphs 5(a), 5(b), 5(c)

5. Establishes the following guiding principles for the special measures to be implemented at national level. The measures must:

(a) (first two amendments do not apply to English version)
form part of general measures designed to stimulate the creation of permanent worthwhile jobs, although not necessarily traditional (word deleted) jobs, to increase the flexibility of the labour market, particularly through the reorganization and reduction of working time;

(b) unchanged (amendments do not apply to English version)

(c) unchanged (amendment does not apply to English version)

5. Establishes the following guiding principles for the special measures to be implemented at national level. The measures should:

(a) form part of general measures designed to stimulate the creation of permanent worthwhile jobs, although not necessarily traditional full-time jobs, to increase the flexibility of the labour market, particularly through the reorganization and reduction of working time;

(b) avoid any further development of insecure or marginal jobs and accordingly concentrate on growth sectors offering career openings for young people in the public and voluntary sector, on tasks that have priority in the light of economic and social development.

(c) include positive measures for the most disadvantaged groups, in particular long-term unemployed young people and to expand the range of occupations open to girls;

Amendments tabled by the Committee on
Social Affairs and Employment

(d) unchanged

Amendment 2

(e) formulate a policy in respect of voluntary work to enable young people to engage in the latter as an alternative to the limited opportunities for gainful employment which are available, thereby helping them to obtain work experience and fulfil a useful social function.

6. unchanged

(i) unchanged

Text proposed by the Commission of the
European Communities

(d) supplement and coordinate measures taken in the area of preparatory and continued training for young people, thus maintaining a useful and credible level of investment in this area.

6. With a view of attaining these general objectives and bearing in mind the responsibilities of the two sides of industry, asks Member States to intensify their efforts to:

(i) encourage emphasis on the recruitment of young people in the context of agreements between management and labour on the reduction and reorganization of working time which are likely to create additional permanent jobs of a full- or part-time character;

Amendments tabled by the Committee on
Social Affairs and Employment

(ii) unchanged

PE 85.668/A - paragraph 6

(iii) help young people to establish new enterprises in which they are self-employed, notably by expanding training opportunities (3 words deleted), providing project evaluation ... (rest unchanged)

(iv) unchanged

Text proposed by the Commission of the
European Communities

(ii) encourage employers in the private sector to recruit more young people, notably via subsidies for the creation of additional permanent jobs adequate to provide a real incentive and via financial support for measures agreed by employers and workers in relation to the reduction and re-organization of working time;

(iii) help young people to establish new enterprises, notably by expanding training opportunities for potential entrepreneurs, providing project evaluation and guidance services and supplying administrative, technical and financial support for the new businesses (which may be involved either in the production of goods and services or in labour-only contracting);

(iv) expand job opportunities in the public and voluntary sector, notably by concentrating public service recruitment on young people and offering employment in community work schemes to the most disadvantaged groups;

Amendments tabled by the Committee on
Social Affairs and Employment

(v) unchanged

Text proposed by the Commission of the
European Communities

(v) help young people to develop their vocational skills and personal interests, notably by ensuring the presence in local employment office of staff with specialized knowledge of the whole range of problems encountered by young people; expand, in terms of both infrastructure and human resources, the facilities aimed at helping young people to develop their non-vocational interests, especially in the social, cultural and sporting fields.

PE 85.668/A - paragraph 7

7. Considers it essential for the Social Fund to support the financial effort to be made by the Member States. This presupposes that the appropriations allotted to the Social Fund will be adjusted from 1984 so that they are commensurate with its tasks. It recalls... (rest unchanged)

7. Stresses the importance it attaches to the ability of the Social Fund to support the financial effort to be made by the Member States, noting that this will entail an increase in budgetary resources. It recalls the role the Social Fund should play in furthering social innovation through experimentation schemes.

Amendments tabled by the Committee on
Social Affairs and Employment

8. unchanged

Text proposed by the Commission of the
European Communities

8. The Council requests the Commission
- to promote systematically the lines of action set out in its communication;
 - to organize an exchange of information and experience between the Member States with regard to the encouragement of job creation for young people and to pursue its own investigations into this question;
 - to present a report 18 months following the adoption of this resolution on the progress accomplished and the advisability of reinforcing Community provisions in this field.

The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the communication from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council concerning a programme to promote employment for young people, together with a draft Council resolution

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(83) 211 final)
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-311/83),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment and the opinions of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport and of the Committee of Inquiry into the Situation of Women in Europe (Doc. 1-754/83),
 - having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal,
- A. Shares the Commission's view that the employment prospects for young people are steadily deteriorating owing to the critical developments in the Community Member States and that in particular the increase in the length of time for which young people are employed is a cause for very great concern;
- B. Supports the Commission's statement that unemployment amongst young people and thus the great danger that unemployed young people may become an alienated sub-group in the Community must be overcome 'principally (by) ... broader strategies designed to achieve economic recovery and employment growth' and calls for 'urgent specific action in the Community';
- C. Notes, however, that neither the Council of Ministers nor the European Council has so far shown how mass unemployment amongst adults and young people should in practice be combated at Community and national level;

¹ OJ No. C 149, 8.6.83, pp. 3 and 14

- D. Regards this serious failure to take decisions or action as a major threat to the cohesion and existence of the Community;
- E. Expressly calls upon the Council and Commission to adopt, as voted by Parliament, the resolution of the European Parliament of 28 April 1983 on combating youth unemployment¹;
- F. Makes the following comments on the Commission's programme to promote employment for young people, together with a draft Council resolution:
1. Takes the view that the five types of action suggested by the Commission which could be undertaken in all Member States, in other words:
 - the reduction of working time,
 - the introduction of measures to create new jobs and increase the recruitment of young people in the private sector,
 - help for young people to develop new enterprises,
 - the expansion of non-market sector employment opportunities,
 - information on and promotion of the non-vocational needs of young people,correspond in principle to the resolutions adopted by the European Parliament in this field;
 2. Emphasises, however, that the recommendations contained in the draft Council resolution are not specific enough or forceful enough to deal with the problem of unemployment amongst young people;
 3. Considers, in particular, that the Commission's recommendation that the youth unemployment rate should be brought down solely to the average unemployment level is dangerous since this means, in view of the scale of unemployment, that young people will continue to be threatened by mass unemployment;
 4. Instructs its President to forward to the Council, the European Council, with a view to its next meeting, and the Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution.

¹ OJ No. C 135, 24.5.1983, p. 22 et seq.

