

European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1983-1984

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10 October 1983

DOCUMENT 1-767/83

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education  
Information and Sport

on a European Voluntary Service Scheme for Young People

Rapporteur: Mr Alasdair Henry HUTTON

PE 82.560/fin.



On 5 May 1981 a motion for a resolution (Doc 1-155/81) on a Youth Service Scheme tabled by Mr BROK, Mr HAHN, Mr PEDINI, Mrs GAIOTTI DE BAISE, Mr LANGES, Mr HENCKENS, Mr CLINTON, Mr SALZER and Mrs BOOT pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure was referred to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport.

At its meeting on 25 November 1981 the committee appointed Mr HUTTON as rapporteur.

On 7 March 1983 a motion for a resolution (Doc 1-1295/82) on voluntary service in the context of cooperation with the developing countries tabled by Mr PEDINI was referred to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Development and Cooperation for an opinion. At its meeting on 17 March 1983 the committee decided to deal with the motion for a resolution in the report.

The committee considered the draft report at its meeting of 16 and 17 March 1983, 25 and 26 April 1983, 25 and 26 May 1983 and 21 and 22 September 1983. It adopted the motion for a resolution at the latter meeting by 12 votes to 1 with no abstentions.

The following took part in the vote: Mr BEUMER, Chairman; Mr SCHWENCKE, Vice-chairman; Mr HUTTON, rapporteur; Mr ARFE, Mr ALEXIADIS, Mr BØGH, Miss BROOKES, Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE, Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS, Mr MARCK (deputizing for Mr BROK), Mr PAPAPIETRO (deputizing for Mr FANTI), Mr SIMMONDS and Mrs VIEHOFF.

At its meeting of 26 March 1983 the Committee on Development and Cooperation decided not to draw up an opinion on Doc 1-1295/82.

The report was deposited on 27 September 1983.

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The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on a European Voluntary Service Scheme for Young People

The European Parliament,

- A. conscious of the great desire of young people to offer service in society;
- B. aware of the extra difficulties faced by young people from underprivileged backgrounds;
- C. guided by the Pruvot Report on Youth activities (Doc. 1-826/80);
- D. taking into account the Bocklet Report on Youth Exchanges (1-78/83);
- E. having regard to the motions for a resolution tabled by
  - Mr Brok and others on a Youth Service Scheme (Doc. 1-155/81)
  - Mrs Gaiotti De Biase on voluntary work (Doc. 1-942/81)
  - Mr Pedini and others on voluntary service in the context of cooperation with the developing countries (Doc. 1-1295/82);
- F. having regard to the report by the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport (Doc. 1-767/83 );

1. Recommends the establishment of a European Voluntary Service Scheme for Young People;
2. Considers that the Youth Service Scheme should not be considered an alternative to unemployment, nor a way of camouflaging it, but a permanent feature aimed at creating a greater sense of personal responsibility and at

broadening young people's experience. Furthermore, Parliament is concerned that until the problem of youth employment is solved there is a danger that freedom of choice will be undermined and any youth service scheme may well become something 'offered' (hidden unemployment) as an alternative to open unemployment.

3. Asks the Commission of the European Communities to prepare a pilot scheme, with projected costs, which includes :
  - a) up to one year's voluntary service for young people between 16 and 25 in the European Community;
  - b) the establishment of a central body to co-ordinate the placement of volunteers;
  - c) activities which :
    - extend and raise the quality of existing services,
    - tackle conservation projects which would otherwise be neglected,
    - undertake new projects,
    - result in tangible achievements;
  - d) emphasis on the importance of the European element to volunteers;
4. Considers that the Scheme should operate wherever possible through existing national organisations acting as promoting bodies. Where none exist the central body should take the initiative in setting one up;
5. Believes that the central co-ordinating body should be set up by the European Commission but it could operate under a separate organisation provided that the European Parliament retained financial supervision of its activities;
6. Considers that the co-ordinating body should maintain a central data base through which national and international promoting bodies could easily identify the most suitable available placements for individual volunteers;

7. Considers that the promoting bodies should provide :
  - a) adequate supervision and training,
  - b) adequate counselling and opportunities for leisure,
  - c) work which provides useful experience,
  - d) adequate board and lodgings;
  
8. Believes that the Scheme must open to young people from all backgrounds and should include opportunities for young people with handicaps;
  
9. Recommends that the Community programme be extended at a later stage to include voluntary service in developing countries;
  
- 10 a) Considers that the Scheme should be funded jointly from the Community's budget for youth policy - necessitating the introduction of a new budgetary line and more resources - and from appropriate budgets within the Member States; and that
  - b) funds should be made available on this new budget line for 1985, to provide for at least one pilot project, starting from January 1 1985 (United Nations Youth Year);
  
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and to the governments of the Member States.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1.0 PROPOSALS FOR A EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE SCHEME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

1.1 In March 1981, the European Parliament approved the Pruvot Report on Youth Activities.

1.2 The Parliament expressed its belief:

"that exchanges of young people at Community level are essential for increasing mutual understanding between countries as a step towards creating a common attitude in the interests of a better Europe" and sought "proposals for creating a Community mechanism to promote exchanges of youth groups of all kinds and of young people attending school, studying or working, whether they belong to organisations or not - not forgetting those at a particular disadvantage because of low income, residence in a backward area or a physical or mental handicap."

2.0 BASIC SCHEME

2.1 The European Youth Service Scheme would enable young people between the ages of 16 and 25 to spend up to a year in voluntary community service anywhere in the European Community.

2.2 Volunteers could apply to an organisation cooperating in the scheme in their own country, asking for a community service placement. They could indicate the country in which they would prefer to work, and the type of placement that they were interested in having. Using a centrally maintained data base of available placements, the home agency would arrange a suitable placement in discussion with the organisation which would receive the volunteer. It should be stressed that the scheme relies entirely on the voluntary participation of young people.

3.0 PROJECTS ENVISAGED

3.1 Most volunteers would be engaged in one of four types of activity. Some would extend the services of the sponsoring agency and add to the number of persons served. Some would raise the quality of services rendered by performing complementary tasks, enhancing the work of professionals. Others would work on conservation projects which are currently being neglected and which would be sponsored by government or voluntary bodies. The fourth and probably the smallest group would tackle new projects presently not being done by anyone and which might require new organisations.



- 3.2 Additionally, the need to place people with vastly differing language skills and other aptitudes would result in a very wide range of projects operating under the Youth Scheme umbrella, from projects encompassing quite ordinary neighbourly help, to tasks that make use of specialist skills and talents, to work for which rigorous selection and training is required. Once established, we might find young Danes helping to run a village for mentally handicapped children in Greece; people from the Netherlands working on development projects in southern Italy; a Parisian acting as helper to a severely disabled German student; young people from the U.K. organising a youth club for the children of migrant workers in Berlin; someone from Ireland arranging sixth-form conferences on third world development issues; Belgians helping on a project to insulate homes in Luxembourg. The list of possible projects is enormous: residential holidays for disabled children, converting waste ground in urban areas into adventure playgrounds, lunch clubs for old-age pensioners, clearing disused canals, language classes for immigrants.
- 3.3 Clearly, the list would grow as the scheme became more widely operated. This has been the experience of Community Service Volunteers (CSV) in Britain, which exists to involve young people in full-time community service. In co-operation with other agencies it develops openings for young people to gain practical experience. It not only places volunteers in projects, however, but actively seeks to explore new patterns of service and to expand the role of volunteers.

#### 4.0 OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

- 4.1 The initial proposals envisaged volunteers participating for a year. In observations from those active in the field of voluntary work and youth exchanges, it is apparent that the insistence on a year's commitment would be unrealistic. Most CSV placements, for example, are for between 6 and 9 months. Instead, there should be some flexibility in the time period, allowing volunteer and receiving organisations to agree on a time period of between 6 and 12 months.
- 4.2 The original organisation to which the volunteer applied would be responsible for pre-placement orientation of the volunteer. The host organisation, would be responsible for providing initial counselling and orientation at the start of the placement.
- 4.3 The Scheme should be funded jointly from the Community's budget for Youth Policy, through the introduction of a new budget line and more resources, and from within Member States.
- 4.4 The scheme would operate wherever possible through existing national and international organisations. These organisations would be paid for the costs of placement and for maintaining adequate supervision of receiving projects. In particular, they would also have to ensure that volunteers were happy in their placement and had received some preliminary induction. This would be essential if a high drop-out rate is to be avoided. Experience of organisations such as International Voluntary Service and VSO could be useful in preparing induction courses.

4.5 A co-ordinating group, with representation from national and international promoting bodies, should be set up to implement the Scheme. The Youth Forum, its member organisations with specific interests and experience, and other voluntary organisations active in the field should also be involved.

4.6 The co-ordinating group would ensure a Europe-wide data base of:

- . placements available,
- . different types of services,
- . various categories of project supplying organisations,
- . the timing of projects.

Each organisation involved would have access to this data base through terminals linked to a computer in Brussels. The Euronet Diane system might be used for this.

4.7 In those countries lacking suitable promoting bodies, the co-ordinating group should take the initiative in creating them in consultation with those active in the field.

4.8 A procedure should be developed to ensure the consultation and agreement of employers and trade unions in the relevant sectors before placing young people as volunteers

#### 5.0 CO-ORDINATING BODY FOR SCHEME

5.1 The European Commission should be the body responsible for the Youth Service Scheme. In the full scheme, possibilities for the involvement of non-EEC citizens, particularly from other countries of the Council of Europe, should be included.

#### 6.0 FUNCTIONS OF ORGANISATIONS ACTING AS PROMOTING BODIES

- 6.1
- a. Publicise scheme to potential volunteers and potential receiving organisations.
  - b. Establish list of possible placements for foreign volunteers to take up.
  - c. Select volunteers from own country.
  - d. Liaise with agencies in other countries to fix suitable places for own volunteers.
  - e. Liaise with foreign agencies to arrange suitable placements for foreign volunteers in own country.
  - f. Provide pre-course induction for own volunteers before going abroad for placement.
  - g. Supervise counselling and initial induction for foreign volunteers at start of service in country.

- h. Ensure that other receiving agencies are meeting established criteria and looking after volunteers.
- i. Providing counselling service for foreign volunteers.
- j. Evaluating progress of scheme and of individual placements.
- k. Finding new receiving agencies.
- l. Reporting to EEC on schemes.

6.2 In addition to the promoting bodies, it will be possible for other organisations and groups, which could include umbrella groups for local organisations, to participate in the Scheme.

6.3 Criteria for accepting an organisation should include the following points:

- a. Adequate supervision and training. The receiving organisation would be expected to draw up a job specification for the volunteer and provide any necessary training, and undertake regular assessments of progress. Whilst it is important that the scheme does not become too bureaucratic or regimented, there has been criticism of under-supervision on existing projects.
- b. Provision of adequate counselling and opportunities for leisure-time activity. For many of the volunteers, their period of service will represent their first sustained period away from home and friends. It will be essential, therefore, to ensure that there is a network of people ready to help the volunteers to settle and adapt to their environment. Receiving organisations would have to specify someone, perhaps a junior member of staff, to act as friend to the volunteer whilst settling in. Additionally, attention could be given to placing people into a similar area in a receiving country; and the existence of town-twinning committees could help both in fixing exchanges of volunteers and in supporting the volunteers in their host country.
- c. Recognised benefit to the community. It is essential that the work undertaken is useful. Obviously, tax-payers will soon oppose a makework scheme; but it is also crucial to volunteers in becoming mature adults and developing a sense of responsibility.
- d. Organisation of board and lodging. Where the volunteer is going to a residential project, this would not be a problem. In other cases, the receiving organisation would be responsible for finding lodgings, for example, with a local family.

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- e. In view of the limited availability of resources, clear priority should be given to projects with a European element as opposed to projects with a mere national character.

## 7.0 VOLUNTEERS

- 7.1 Ultimately, the scheme should guarantee a place to anyone who wants to do community service - although it may not necessarily be in a foreign country. Initially, priority should be given to those not going on to tertiary education but rather to young workers and those people making the transition from school to work. This is important because many opportunities for voluntary service are now largely confined to graduates.
- 7.2 Selection - at least for the pilot scheme - should be based on motivation at the time. Experience of community service, for example, through one of the increasing number of community service courses in schools or through a voluntary organisation like the scouts, could be one criterion. Volunteers would be asked to outline their motivation and to do this they would need details of projects available.

## 8.0 LINKS TO EXISTING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND MILITARY SERVICE SCHEMES IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

- 8.1 It is important to stress that this scheme would not be designed to tackle youth unemployment but to widen young people's experiences. As such it should be perfectly compatible with any existing national programmes to provide vocational training and work experience for young people. Indeed, it could provide an addition to such training. Neither is the scheme intended to be all-embracing but rather as an additional opportunity for young people to choose from, as well as further education, immediate access to the labour market, etc.

9.0 ADVANTAGES OF YOUTH SERVICE SCHEME

- 9.1 Proposals for national youth service have been made in several Western countries in recent years. There are many advantages in such a scheme.
- 9.2 First, participation in the Youth Scheme would give volunteers invaluable experience - experience of different kinds of work, and of a range of skills such as communicating with people. People from different backgrounds, class and race would be thrown together at a formative stage in their lives. It is perhaps significant that police and army cadets in the United Kingdom now undertake placements in voluntary service since it shows that these organisations understand the value of community service. The scheme would be part of a general education for life and could be particularly useful as part of the transition from school to work, or - when the scheme is established fully - between school and further education. It will provide the opportunity to consider choices for career possibilities and further education needs. Significantly, many university departments - especially the medical schools - already encourage potential students to take a year's break before starting their undergraduate courses.
- 9.3 Second, service on the Youth Scheme could stimulate a life-long interest in a particular field either in a voluntary or a full-time career capacity.
- 9.4 Third, a youth service scheme would enable young people to give something to the community and provide a practical means of harnessing their natural idealism and desire to contribute to society: in the words of one poster: "Outside times of crisis, it seems to have become a positive embarrassment to be seen helping someone else." Since the scheme is completely voluntary, each person could decide for him or herself whether to make such a contribution. The voluntary element is, therefore, an important part of the scheme.
- 9.5 Fourth, the advantage of living in a different culture and of travelling. Since 1976, DG12, in the Commission, has run a series of pilot projects on the Transition from School to Work. One of the conclusions of DG12 in evaluating its pilot schemes is the value of travel for young people, especially those who don't normally travel.
- 9.6 Fifth, roots in local organisations should mean that the scheme will not suffer the fate of schemes such as the Peace Corps which failed because they relied on volunteers arriving en masse from outside, lacking links to the grassroots and unrelated to local needs.
- 9.7 Some organisations have expressed fears that the Youth Scheme could be a palliative for unemployment - icing on a diminishing cake - or a trick to circumvent politically embarrassing youth unemployment figures. The establishment of the scheme should certainly not be regarded as an alternative to government action against unemployment - but it could form part of an EEC Social Guarantee under which every school leaver is guaranteed a job or some form of training or further education

9.8 Additionally, there is experience that the work of a volunteer often leads to the establishment of a full-time job.

#### 10.0 IMPORTANCE OF THE EUROPEAN ELEMENT

10.1 Ideas for youth service are not new. The difference in the present scheme is the European element - and this is important.

10.2 First, the EEC element enlarges the opportunities available from the scheme both in the range of posts available and through the chance to live and work in a different community; and at the end of the scheme, the young volunteer may find a permanent job in the host country. Voluntary organisations too, will benefit from an influx of foreign volunteers with different experiences and "know-how" - especially where the volunteer has been active in community service prior to the Youth Scheme.

10.3.0 Second, EEC funding would help the poorer members of the Community. More important, EEC funding and the opportunity for service anywhere in the Community would help to foster a sense of European identity. It would involve more people in the workings of the EEC and would demonstrate that the Community is not just an economic organisation or concerned solely with agriculture and harmonisation proposals. This is particularly significant, because in most of the existing programmes assisted by Community funding, such as the re-training of redundant steelworkers, the EEC contribution is not obvious.

10.3.1 And as more young people moved around the Community, they would understand that each West European country faces very similar problems, which could use similar solutions.

10.4 The third advantage of a Community-wide scheme, is that the EEC is more receptive to such a scheme than many member governments. There is already a precedent for Community action in this field. The Treaty of Rome, which established the EEC, specifically provides for exchanges of young workers between member states and this has recently been expanded.

10.5 Additionally, the Commission's Directorate-General for Social Affairs has been actively working on the transition from school to work.

10.6 One further point on the European element: whilst the opportunity of working abroad is likely to be attractive to most volunteers, it must always be possible to participate in the scheme in one's own country - and indeed, for some projects it may be necessary to insist on nationals of the country where the project is located.

#### 11.0 BARRIERS TO SCHEME NOT INSUPERABLE

11.1 One objection to the scheme has been the language barrier - and indeed, language and adaptation to new cultures were major problems for the EEC's original programmes for young workers' exchanges.

- 11.2 Certainly, this could restrict access to some projects. It would be difficult, for example, for a Dane or an Italian to work with delinquent children in the East End of London, unless they had an excellent command of English. But conversely, there are projects where an incomplete command of a language could be a positive advantage. Take, for example, a Home for the severely handicapped, where a foreign volunteer would be someone with different experiences to discuss with the residents - and more importantly, the residents could get a sense of purpose and interest from helping the volunteer to improve his command of another language.
- 11.3 Young people can, generally, overcome the language barrier. There are an increasing number of cross-border exchanges of community volunteers, such as the exchanges between the English and German Methodist churches. Similarly, the German churches' organisation "Social Service Year" has an ecumenical volunteer programme in Britain, and Aktion Soziale Zeichen deploys volunteers in Germany, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.
- 11.3.1 The existence of the Youth Scheme would give a major impetus to foreign language teaching in schools since school-children would have a tangible incentive for learning a foreign language - rather than treating it as just another exam subject to be passed. This proposed scheme has been warmly welcomed by a number of language teachers in Britain. There are already a number of "crash courses" in foreign languages in existence, such as the four week courses run by the Council of Europe each summer in English, German and French, for young people involved in international youth work. The Youth Scheme proposal envisages the EEC paying for any necessary language tuition.
- 11.4 For anyone totally unable to learn a foreign language, there is always the opportunity of voluntary service in their own country - but one should not underestimate how quickly one can pick up a foreign language when totally immersed in it.
- 11.5 Some might object to the use of young volunteers as "cheap labour". The European Trade Union Confederation, however, is now actively exploring work-sharing schemes and other ways of adapting to the expected decline in the demand for labour in the manufacturing industry; and some British unions are known to have considered a national voluntary service year. Providing that the voluntary nature of the scheme is emphasized and that there is no question of using volunteers to do full time jobs, this objection should be overcome.
- 11.6 Active union and management support for the scheme, however, will be crucial to its success. Employers may have to allow young workers to leave their jobs for up to a year - or to postpone the start of work for a similar period.

- 11.7 The opportunities for young workers to participate in the scheme are probably a real barrier to volunteers coming forward. Apprentices would have to be able to interrupt their training. There is unlikely to be any shortage of school leavers or students wishing to participate in the Youth Scheme. A survey of 3,000 young people by the Holland Committee in the United Kingdom in the late 1970's showed that two-thirds would be prepared to undertake community service even if they only received an allowance equal to unemployment benefit. This enthusiasm is confirmed by the groups of young people with whom the proposed scheme has been discussed - and by the experience of many voluntary schemes already in existence. Nevertheless, to ensure the maximum take-up of the scheme and to prevent it being confined to well-educated young people whose parents can afford to support them during the year's voluntary service, the EEC contribution in language training and cash is essential.
- 11.8 It will also be necessary to secure the co-operation of voluntary organisations. It has been suggested that this might be a real barrier because voluntary groups could resent the EEC trying to "muscle-in" on voluntary work or take over their activities.
- 11.9 There is, of course, no question of replacing voluntary groups or minimising the scale and value of the work which they do. Rather, the creation of the Youth Service Scheme would be a major addition to their work - especially as most voluntary organisations have had major resource problems in recent years, caused by inflation and the recession. This has been the unanimous response from voluntary groups to this present proposal. Several organisations rightly pointed out, however, that it will be necessary to reconcile the proposed Youth Service Scheme with existing national government programmes.
- 11.10 A more substantial barrier - and one that led to the failure of earlier proposals for a scheme of European community service - is that "voluntary service" remains an Anglo-Saxon concept. The Anglo-Saxon generally accepts the philosophy of the graffiti on an American university building that, "if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem!"
- 11.11 In many European countries, however, there is no such tradition. In Scandinavia, for example, there is the feeling that unmet social needs are the responsibility of the state; and in other countries including Italy, the church still retains enormous influence over community needs. Only in Germany amongst the continental European states, is there a similar attitude to that prevailing in the United Kingdom.
- 11.12 In the face of more cosmopolitan ideas and greater travel - especially amongst young people - this situation is changing and this is confirmed by the growing number of volunteers from overseas taking part in schemes operated by international youth organisations. Overall, the approach should be aimed at achieving the broadest possible consensus, with an equal appreciation of all these different national concepts of voluntary service.



11.13 A final possible barrier is cost. Eventually this should be shared between the European Community and national organisations.

11.14 The principal costs will be for:

- . placement and supervision,
- . board and lodging,
- . allowances,
- . travel.

There may also need to be expenditure on educational research and counselling. The European Community contribution may want to take these elements into account.

11.15 The European Commission should estimate the costs of operating such a scheme in consultation with organisations expert in the field. The funding of the pilot scheme should be comparable to the fully operating scheme.

## 12.0 PILOT SCHEME

12.1 A large number of practical issues remain to be clarified. This can be best done through a pilot scheme which should be as similar as possible to the elements envisaged in the fully operating scheme.

12.2 It is suggested that this should be run for three years, cover a number of EEC countries and aim to place at least 100 volunteers each year.

12.3 The following points must be agreed in advance of the pilot scheme:

1. Costs per volunteer/available budget;
2. Suitable organisations to act as placing agencies;
3. Suitable placements for volunteers: type of work; projects; organisations;
4. Publicising of scheme and available placements;
5. Recruitment and selection of volunteers;
6. Counselling and support for individual volunteers;
7. Language tuition;
8. Responsibilities of differing agencies;
9. Supervision and evaluation of projects;
10. Role of co-ordinating group and how to evaluate all aspects of the pilot project.
11. This pilot scheme should precede any attempt to extend a similar Community funded scheme to developing countries.

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr BROK, Mr HAHN, Mr PEDINI, Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE, Mr LANGES, Mr HENCKENS, Mr CLINTON, Mr SÄLZER and Mrs BOOT

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure on Youth Service Scheme

The European Parliament,

- recognizing the idealism of young people and their desire to make a positive contribution to the Community,
- noting the frustration and alienation which many young people feel because they are unable to find a channel for this contribution,
- recognizing also society's inability to undertake many services urgently needed for the old, sick, handicapped and in the field of conservation and provision of youth facilities, and the need to encourage more voluntary community service,
- concerned also that young people need wider preparation and training for life and more opportunities to broaden their experiences, and recognizing that all individuals will need more interests to purposefully fill their increased leisure time,
- and noting the proposals contained in the Pruvot Report on Youth Activities passed by Parliament in March 1981 to encourage the extension of exchanges of young people through European voluntary social and cultural service; and for a European Peace Corps of young volunteers,

calls for:

1. the establishment of pilot schemes to establish the operational requirements and feasibility for a European Youth Service Scheme. The objectives of this scheme should be to enable all young people in the Community to spend up to a year in voluntary service in any EC state;
2. Pilot projects should be sufficiently large and well-monitored to ensure that a comprehensive scheme can be developed from the experience of the pilot programme.

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (Doc. 1-1295/82)

tabled by Mr Pedini, Mr Beumer, Mr Barbi, Mr Brok, Mr Estgen, Mr Del Duca, Mr Hahn, Mr Gerokostopoulos, Mr Filippi, Mr Salzer, Mrs Gaiotti De Biase and Mr Vergeer  
 on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party (CD Group)  
 pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure  
 on voluntary service in the context of cooperation with the developing countries

The European Parliament,

- A - whereas voluntary service in the context of cooperation with the developing countries is an essential means of promoting genuine development which gives importance to the individual and is designed to train humane leaders,
- B - whereas voluntary service is ideally suited to young people and clearly has undoubted educational benefits, since it encourages them to rediscover ideals based on solidarity and a mature form of good citizenship,
- C - whereas voluntary youth service has been flourishing for some time in several Community countries and in other countries outside the Community and whereas this civilian service may in many cases replace military service on the basis that helping to meet the needs of poorer peoples represents a valid contribution to international peace and security,
- D - having regard to the points made on this subject in the Pruvot report on youth activities (adopted in February 1981) and in the written question tabled on 5 April 1982 by Mr Pedini, Mr Filippi and Mr Del Duca,

Requests the Commission to

- (1) investigate the various national rules on voluntary service in the developing countries and to identify the public and private bodies that have distinguished themselves in this field;
- (2) encourage the organization of meetings, discussions and exchanges of views between the national voluntary service bodies, using for this purpose the EEC's budget appropriations earmarked for education and exchanges of young people;
- (3) identify the difficulties encountered by these bodies in training volunteers, arranging their service activities and providing for the 'reintegration' of volunteers who have completed their period of service;
- (4) use the structures and resources of the Convention of Lomé and, in general, the Community's cooperation agreements with the developing countries (including Latin America) to launch 'pilot projects' for voluntary service with the involvement of the most competent organizations in this field;

- (5) propose to the Council of Ministers 'recommendations', to be forwarded to the governments and national parliaments, on the subject of voluntary service for the developing countries, and a directive on the legal status of volunteer workers;
- (6) take account in this connection of the documents already drawn up, for example, by the Council of Europe and by other international organizations;
- (7) report to the European Parliament within six months on the action taken on the above.

"  
SUGGESTED ORGANISATIONS WHICH COULD ACT AS  
PROMOTING BODIES

Community Service Volunteers,  
237 Pentonville Road,  
LONDON.

Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges,  
Seymour Mews House,  
Seymour Mews,  
LONDON, W1H 9TE.

European Federation of Inter-Cultural Learning,  
Justitiestraat 35,  
2000 ANTWERP,  
Belgium.

Service Civil International,  
Venusstraat 28,  
2000 ANTWERP,  
Belgium.

The Christian Peace Movement,  
46 rue de Vaugirard,  
B75006 PARIS,  
France.

Concordia,  
27 rue de Pont,  
PARIS 1,  
France.

Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste,  
Keiderstrasse 43,  
T5300 BONN,  
Federal Republic of Germany.

Mellemsolkeligt Samvirke's,  
Department for International Youth Exchange,  
Højrevej 38,  
2400 COPENHAGEN,  
Denmark.

