

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs PRUVOT

on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group

and Mr DILIGENT, Mr LECANUET and Mr SIMONNET

on behalf of the European People's Party

(Christian Democratic Group)

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on film-making in the Community countries

The European Parliament.

- having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee of 20 December 1978 on the Communication from the Commission to the Council on Community action in the cultural sector¹, and especially point 2.5 of the Opinion²,
- having regard to the Resolution of 18 January 1979 embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the same Communication, and especially paragraph 5³,
- having regard to the studies on the distribution of films produced in the Community countries⁴ and on the economic situation of the United States' film industry⁵, drawn up by the Commission in response to the wish expressed by the Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament that the Commission should cease to regard the film industry solely in industrial policy and competition policy terms,
- whereas, unlike the United States' film industry, which is more prosperous than ever, in the Community countries film-making is in the throes of a serious economic crisis,
- stressing that this crisis is making a disastrous impact in social terms (on employment, the standard of living and all categories of workers in the film industry), as well as in cultural terms, jeopardizing the future of a medium for the cultural expression of every nation,
- taking the view that the crisis in the film industry of the Community countries is not due to any lack of quality at the production stage (whose general level is as high as ever) but that it is predominantly the result of weakness at the distribution stage rather than of the priorities given by potential cinema-goers to television and other leisure activities,

¹Doc. 499/77 - Bulletin of the European Communities, Supplement 6/77

²CES 1245/78 en.

³OJ No. C 39, 12.2.1979, p. 51

⁴XII/234/80

⁵XII/206/80

- noting in this connection that the present arrangements for distributing films produced in the Community countries are managing neither to stem the tide of American films on the Community market nor, more seriously, to gain a strong foothold on the world market,

1. Welcomes the initiative taken by the Commission in producing a series of television programmes on the different national film-industries of the Member States which, when available in the countries concerned, will provide the people of Europe with a review of film making which is part of their own culture and to which they should therefore give greater appreciation;
2. Calls on the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport to draw up a report on the various measures to be taken at Community level, firstly in order to establish a mutually profitable basis for cooperation between the television and film industries, and secondly in order to bring about a considerable improvement in the distribution of films produced in the Community countries on the national market of the country concerned, in the other Community countries and in non-member countries, including the United States, where our film-making is virtually unknown;
3. Expresses the wish that the report of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport should give special attention to defining a Community-level campaign, undertaking or activity to prolong the promotional impact of the abovementioned television programmes, and at the same time to inducing the distributors in several Community countries to join forces and establish a European distribution network sufficiently powerful to balance the American 'majors' and so provide for our film industry the wider distribution which it deserves on grounds of quality and which it needs to make it viable;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council of the European Communities.

