

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

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DOCUMENT 1-356/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr SASSANO, Mr BEUMER, Mr PEDINI, Mr HAHN,
Mr GHERGO, Mr BROK, Mr del DUCA, Mr HABSBURG,
Mr NARDUCCI, Mr MARCK and Mr MACARIO

on behalf of the EPP Group (CD)

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on freedom of teaching in Europe

PE 84.920

The European Parliament,

- A. referring to the International Congress of the CEEC (Comité Européen de l'Enseignement Catholique) held from 13 to 15 April 1983 at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg,
 - B. believing, as affirmed by the CEEC, that freedom of teaching applies not only to the Catholic community but to all religious communities: Protestant, Jewish, Muslim as well as the non-denominational organizations whose concern is to provide a specific type of education for young people,
 - C. recalling that Catholic schools in Europe, freely chosen by thousands of families, are attended by over ten million pupils,
 - D. convinced that the monopoly wielded by the public authorities in the field of teaching is contrary to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Convention against prejudice and discrimination in the field of education and the European Convention on Human Rights,
 - E. acknowledging that the role of the public authorities in the field of teaching should be:
 - (a) to ensure the right to education for all young people, to redress any wrongs and curb any abuses that may occur in the exercise of this freedom,
 - (b) to guarantee the standard of teaching, cooperation between all those in charge of schools, respect for religious freedom and freedom of conscience and the right of parents to freedom of choice,
 - F. aware that a healthy democratic society demands respect for human rights in their entirety, that formal freedom of teaching cannot be effective without the material means needed to provide it and that this freedom cannot be dissociated from other fundamental freedoms;
1. Calls for the genuine application of human rights in the field of education;
 2. Is convinced that freedom always involves having the material means to ensure its observance and that freedom of teaching is indissociable from other fundamental freedoms;

3. Considers that pluralist education involves eliminating in all the member countries of the Community the financial obstacles which prevent parents from exercising their right to freedom of choice in the field of education;
4. Reiterates that no discrimination can be tolerated in the Member States through granting public funds on the basis of differences in administration or between parents, pupils and teachers;
5. Calls for the different social groups engaged in teaching to be involved in the preparation of national and Community policies on education;
6. Proposes that the European Convention for the safeguard of human rights be supplemented to include explicit references to these fundamental demands;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the governments of the Member States and to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.