

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

13 OCTOBER 1983

DOCUMENT 1-855/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs THEOBALD-PAOLI, Mr JAQUET, Mr MOREAU,
Mr G. Fuchs, Mrs CHARZAT, Mr LINKOHR, Mr ALBERS,
Mr ARFE, Mr RADOUX, Mr PAPANTONIOU, Mr ZIAGAS
and Mr COUSTE

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the organization of a United Front for trade
negotiations with Japan

PE 86.980

The European Parliament,

- A. deeply concerned by recent trends in trade between the European Community and Japan, which left Japan a surplus of US \$6,300 million in the first eight months of 1983 and indicate that Japan's external trade surplus should be twice that of 1982 by the end of this year if the present pattern continues,
 - B. extremely disturbed to observe that although its economic growth will amount to 3.5% of its GNP in 1983 Japan continues to curb access for European products to its markets by various direct and sometimes indirect methods, whilst profiting fully, in fact more each year, from the facilities of the Community market, which is freely accessible,
 - C. whereas the perpetuation of this lack of balance between the attitude of the European Community and that of Japan distorts competition, to the detriment of the Community, and jeopardizes whole sectors of its industry,
 - D. recalling that social security is not as comprehensive in Japan as in the Community and costs undertakings appreciably less, which has a considerable effect on competition, and that even if the ten Community Member States have to rationalize their expenditure on social security, they do not intend to and cannot relinquish their social security schemes,
 - E. emphasizing that the lack of a united approach within the Community in relation to Japan is the fundamental reason for its relative lack of success, compared with the United States, in the dialogue with Japan, despite the fact that the Community is still the most important market in the world,
 - F. whereas the European Community must adopt as quickly as possible a defensive and offensive mechanism to deal with Japan's 'passive resistance' to the many legitimate requests made by the Ten as regards both free access to its market and measures to stabilize trade,
1. Expresses to the Commission, the Council, the Government of Japan and the Japanese Diet its very grave concern over the trend in Euro-Japanese trade and the resulting economic, political and social dangers;
 2. Requests the Commission and Council to establish before the end of 1983 a genuine United Front for trade negotiations with Japan by setting up greatly strengthened permanent negotiation unit having wide, clearly defined operational powers;

3. Considers that the united Community must, as the first stage:
 - (a) remind the Japanese Government, so that it can make its country's industrialists aware of this fact, that in the medium and long term the Community will only be able to remain an important market for foreign products if the future of European industries is preserved (as regards profit margins, markets and conditions for technological modernisation) and that a commercial invasion of the Community will seriously endanger the stability of trade over a long period and in fact threaten the world free trade system;
 - (b) induce the Japanese Government to accord it similar status to that of the United States of America, in particular by means of a binding undertaking that it will enter into Euro-Japanese trade negotiations based on the concept of normal EEC-Japan bilateral trade;
 - (c) request Japan to put an end to its highly protectionist agricultural policy in the same way as it lifted barriers to free trade in other protected sectors throughout the years from 1960 to 1970 (automobile, electronics, etc.);
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Governments of the Member States and the Government of Japan, the Japanese Diet and the Government of the United States of America.