

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

14 July 1983

DOCUMENT 1-586/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COSTANZO, Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI,
Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN, Mrs PHLIX, Mr BARBAGLI, Mr VANDEWIELE,
Mr GIAVAZZI, Mrs RABBETHGE, Mr LIGIOS, Mr LENZ,
Mr COLLESELLI, Mr BROK, Mr ESTGEN and Mr McCARTIN

on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party
(Christian Democratic Group)

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on family businesses in the European Community

PE 85.944

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the resolution in the own-initiative report on family policy in the European Community by Mrs Cassanmagnago-Cerretti, in which one of the requests made in the context of proposals designed to promote small and medium-sized undertakings and cooperatives was that particular emphasis should be placed on family businesses which, particularly in the crisis now facing the Community, are an important facet of the modern social and economic structure (Doc. 1-1196/82),

- B. having regard to its resolution on the situation of women in the European Community and particularly to paragraph 43 in which the Commission of the European Communities was requested to draw up a legal statute for non-salaried women employed in family businesses (OJ No. C 50, 15.3. 1981),

- C. having regard to its resolution on the condition and problems of elderly persons in the European Community, in which the Commission of the European Communities was requested to establish an overall policy on the elderly including a five-year plan (OJ No. C66, 15.3.1982),

- D. having regard to the final resolution of the Agricultural Conference of Member States held in Stresa in July 1958, which included a reaffirmation of the unanimous desire to safeguard the family aspect of European agriculture and stated that all proper means should be adopted to increase the economic and competitive capacity of family businesses,

- E. having regard to the proceedings of the opening conference of '1983: European year of small and medium-sized undertakings and craft industries',

- F. whereas family businesses are found not only in the agricultural sector but also in the tourist, hotel, handicrafts, construction and trade industries and whereas many self-employed workers and tradesmen consider their family businesses as their living and working environments,
- G. whereas family businesses, even in the current situation of economic crisis, have nonetheless recorded productivity gains, thereby helping to maintain employment,
- H. believing that the strengthening and development of family businesses are important factors in the creation of new, stable and productive jobs for young people, women and the elderly,
- I. whereas Italy is the only Community country to have given legal status to family businesses, thereby placing work in a family business on an equal footing with work in a company, and whereas France is far advanced in preparing similar legislation,
- L. given the untypical nature of such businesses compared with others where the type of work, the functions and the organizational structure obtaining are a source of dissatisfaction, insecurity, loss of identity and less willingness to help others, and therefore tend to alienate young people and women,
- M. whereas national legal protection is required, appropriately integrated at Community level, to guarantee that the personal and working rights of members of families, who often enjoy no legal protection, are safeguarded,
1. Requests the Commission to draw up a proposal for a directive for adequate legal provisions in Member States' legislation on family businesses and the eventual harmonization of such laws at Community level;
 2. Calls on the Commission to carry out an inquiry before 1985 into the structure of family businesses in the European Community with particular reference to the composition of the family as regards status, sex, age groups, region, the sector of economic activity

involved, turnover and social security contributions;

3. Calls on Member States to consider the possibility of providing for specific financial incentives to support and develop family businesses;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Governments of the Member States.

