

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

5 JULY 1982

DOCUMENT 1-466/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr HERMAN

with request for topical and urgent debate¹
pursuant to Rule 48

on current problems in trade relations between the
United States and the European Community

¹The request for a topical and urgent debate was signed by the following Members: Mr DELEAU, Mr MACARIO, Mr von BISMARCK, Mr SCHINZEL, Mr ROGALLI, Mr CAROSSINO, Mr VAN ROMPUY, Mr WAGNER, Mr ALBERS, Mr VERGEER, Mr BEUMER, Mr MOREAU, Mrs DESOUCHES, Mr RUFFOLO, Mr DE GOEDE, Mr ROGERS, Mr ESTGEN, Mr LEONARDI, Mr WEDEKIND, Mr von WOGAU, Mr FERNANDEZ, Mr FRISCHMANN, on behalf of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

The European Parliament,

- A - having learnt with concern of the decisions announced by the United States Department of Commerce on 11 June concerning, firstly, steel imports and, secondly, restrictions on exports of equipment for the Soviet gas pipeline,
- B - whereas these measures come at a time of general confrontation between the United States and the EEC in matters of trade, affecting the agricultural, textile and export credit sectors,
- C - whereas the effect of the measures announced with regard to steel imports will be to stop almost all exports of European steel to the United States, thereby causing extreme damage to the already crisis-ridden iron and steel industry in Europe,
- D - whereas the EEC has already reduced considerably its steel production capacity, and is continuing to do so, with the result that many jobs are being lost,
- E - whereas all subsidies granted by the Member States to the iron and steel industry are subject to prior authorization from the Commission, which will approve such subsidies only if they are consistent with its policy for cutting back and reorganizing this sector; and whereas the subsidies and aid are transitional in nature and cannot be granted beyond 1985,
- F - whereas these measures, which are based on a unilateral and extremist approach, are incompatible with the commitments entered into regarding the steel sector within the OECD and constitute, along with other measures, a unilateral attempt to upset the overall balance of advantages resulting from the Tokyo Round,
- G - whereas the restrictions placed on European subsidiaries of American companies without prior consultation, prohibiting them from selling sophisticated equipment to the Soviet Union for the gas pipeline, imply an extraterritorial extension of American jurisdiction which runs counter to the principles of international law and cannot be accepted by the countries of the Community,
- H - whereas the United States' balance of trade with Europe shows a very large surplus and whereas a considerable proportion of American exports to Europe are agricultural products which Europe could cut back on by extending the principle of Community preference,

1. Regrets profoundly the unilateral nature of these measures, which run counter to the commitments and principles solemnly reaffirmed at the recent Versailles summit concerning international trade;
2. Calls urgently on the Commission and the Council respectively to prepare and adopt a joint European position in response to this situation and to avoid individual and uncoordinated action by the Member States;
3. Calls on the Community to refer the matter immediately to the OECD Special Committee on Steel and to draw attention to the incompatibility of the American measures with the commitments entered into in that committee;
4. Calls for condemnation within GATT of the application of the DISC system, which may be regarded as disguised method of subsidizing exports;
5. Urges the Commission and the Council to take all necessary Community action to reduce the technological dependence of European companies which lays them open to unacceptable political pressure;
6. Calls on the Commission and the Council to draw the attention of the American authorities to the very serious consequences of their attitude, and in particular the possibility of Europe being obliged to take retaliatory measures in the agricultural sector, for example, which would lead to a major confrontation within the Atlantic Alliance.