

European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1981 - 1982

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6 November 1981

DOCUMENT 1-702/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr LEZZI

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on measures to combat illiteracy

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the alarming increase in illiteracy in the Community Member States,
  - whereas this problem is liable to get worse because of the link with rising unemployment in the Community Member States,
  - whereas illiteracy constitutes an obstacle to persons seeking to enter the labour market and is thus a form of discrimination,
  - whereas the elimination of illiteracy is essential if a more just and progressive social order is to be established and the living and working conditions of Community citizens improved,
  - conscious of the efforts made by the Commission in this field and of the existence of various forms of illiteracy, but interested primarily in the 'functional' illiteracy of the adult sufferer, which reduces his chances of finding employment and prevents effective participation in training and retraining programmes,
  - accepting, for practical reasons, UNESCO's 1958 definition of illiteracy as 'an inability to read and understand a short account of everyday events',
  - realizing that this problem will assume still greater dimensions on the labour market when the European Community is further enlarged,
1. Calls on the Commission to publish the information it possesses about the programmes and measures implemented by the Member States with the aim of combating illiteracy;
  2. Requests the Commission to carry out a comparative study of the measures adopted by Member States' Governments;
  3. Calls on the Commission to draw up a report illustrating the connection between illiteracy and economic, social and regional problems and to submit proposals for Community action;
  4. Hopes that it will be possible for aid to be granted from the Social Fund to help teach illiterate persons to read and write;
  5. Calls on the parliamentary committee responsible to organize a public hearing on this problem;
  6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.