

# European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1982-1983

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25 November 1982

DOCUMENT 1-931/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs DURY, Mr GLINNE, Mr VAN MIERT,  
Mr RADOUX, Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK, Mr VERNIMMEN  
and Mrs LIZIN

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the right to seek voluntary termination of  
pregnancy



The European Parliament,

- A. - having regard to the resolution adopted by the European Parliament in February 1981 on the position of women in the European Community<sup>1</sup>,
- B. - having regard to paragraph 38 of this resolution

'Deplores that, because of this situation, the number of abortions practised as a means of birth control is constantly increasing and that:

- on the one hand in countries where there is no legislation on the voluntary termination of pregnancy, clandestine abortion remains the rule and often has serious consequences for women (and for their physical and psychological state of health);
- on the other hand, in those countries where legislation in this matter does exist, the specialized hospital facilities are often inadequate and there may be a tendency for abortion to be treated as a normal practice and one which is in itself sufficient to solve the problems experienced by women in this area;

notes nevertheless that the relevant legislation in the Member States varies so widely that women in distress frequently have to seek help in other countries, and requests the Commission to press the Council for decisions at national level such as to obviate the need for journeys of this type which make any form of social aid impossible and lead to unacceptable commercialization, and to ensure that every women who finds herself in difficulty can obtain the necessary assistance in her own country;

Considers, however that abortion must be regarded only as a last resort, calls upon the Commission to set up a programme to reduce the number of abortions, in particular by:

- early provision of adequate information for young people;
- a broad and suitable range of reliable means of contraception;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 50 of 9 March 1981, p. 35

- full recognition of the needs of single parents and special provisions for parents of large families;
  - appropriate provisions for day nurseries.'
- C. - having regard to the legislation already in force in Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands,
- D. - having regard to the trials in Belgium and the ensuing convictions,
1. Insists that the Commission call on the Member States to approximate their legislation, specifically on the basis of the following principles:
- (a) women resident in the Community have a right of decision in these matters;
  - (b) abolition of criminal proceedings for termination of pregnancy;
  - (c) costs of pregnancy terminations to be defrayed from public funds;
2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.