

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VIE

on behalf of the Group of European Progressive
Democrats

with request for topical and urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure
on the freedom of education in the Community

The European Parliament,

- whereas the Charter of the United Nations, the Human Rights Convention and the European Communities prohibit discrimination of any kind on the grounds of religious beliefs and recognize the parents' freedom of choice in the education of their children as a fundamental right,
 - whereas in all the Community countries every family has a choice of education, in different forms but at comparable cost, corresponding to its philosophical or religious beliefs,
 - whereas instruction in religious faith - whether Christian, Jewish or Islamic - should not simply be an adjunct to secular education, since religious faith postulates a view of life with which the whole of education must legitimately be imbued,
 - whereas statements made in certain countries reveal a desire to put an end to the parents' freedom of choice in the education of their children, which would be a serious encroachment on a fundamental aspect of human rights,
 - whereas a freedom not accompanied by the means of exercising it is an illusion; to claim, therefore, that freedom of education remains a fundamental principle, whereas it is in fact confined to families having adequate financial resources, is to tolerate a grave social injustice,
 - whereas the tax levied equally on all citizens should not, when distributed, discriminate against certain religious beliefs,
 - whereas the free movement of persons and ideas proclaimed by the Treaties would be held up to ridicule if a Community family of whatever faith did not have the opportunity to continue to practise that faith in every Community country in one of its principal dimensions, the education of children,
1. Calls on the various Community authorities concerned to ensure strict respect for the freedom of education;
 2. Calls on the Commission to take action, where necessary, by using the procedures applicable in the event of the contravention of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is considered an integral part of the general principles of Community law;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and to the governments of the Member States.