

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr DE CLERCQ and Mr DE GUCHT

on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group  
pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure  
on the organization of a course on 'the European  
Community' in educational establishments in all  
the Member States

The European Parliament,

1. Deplores the fact that the most recent 'Eurobarometer' results show a loss of enthusiasm for Europe on the part of its citizens;
2. Deplores the fact that the need for a strong and united Europe tends to be felt more strongly outside than within the Community;
3. Notes that the achievements of the European Community represent a milestone in the economic and political history of our century;
4. Presumes that the waning interest in Europe is due to factors which on the whole have little connection with the process of European integration;
5. Considers that public opinion is not adequately informed about the importance, objectives and achievements of the European common market;
6. Fears, also, that public opinion is frequently disoriented by distorted press reports and by sensation-mongering media programmes;
7. Presumes that the concern aroused by the national problems born of the economic crisis is to some extent responsible for the waning interest in Europe;
8. Is convinced that it is important and necessary for every citizen of Europe to devote his energies to building Europe and to have faith in it since this is the sine qua non for the birth of a European identity as an inherent part of the process of European integration;
9. Considers that failing any enthusiasm at grass-roots level, the Community mechanism will come to a standstill;
10. Considers that every citizen has the right to full information on the fortunes and misfortunes of the society of which he forms part, in this case Europe;
11. Is convinced, therefore, that:
  - (a) the dissemination of full, continuous and objective information on the history, achievements and current events of the European Community must form an integral part of the information supply to the citizens of Europe;
  - (b) a course on 'the European Community' should form part of the secondary-school curriculum in all the Member States;
  - (c) the various branches of the European legislative and economic system should be taught in the appropriate faculties of all Community universities and institutes of higher education;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council, and in particular to the Ministers of Education.