

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

16 June 1980

DOCUMENT 1-245/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs VAYSSADE and Mr SIEGLERSCHMIDT
on behalf of the Socialist Group
pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on the right of petition

PE 66.052

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion guaranteed by Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR),
 - having regard to Resolution 337(1967) and Recommendation 816(1977) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,
 - having regard to the laws on the right to refuse to perform military service,
1. Stresses the need to strive towards a common standard of protection of human rights in the European Community as embodied in the Joint Declaration of 5 April 1977 and in the decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Communities;
 2. Recalls that the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is one of the most important human rights;
 3. Observes that the protection of freedom of conscience also includes the right to refuse, under certain circumstances, to perform military service under arms;
 4. Points out that no committee or tribunal can examine the conscience of the individual;
 5. Stresses that alternative forms of civilian service within the meaning of Article 4 of the ECHR should be exacted only in conjunction with safeguards for the human dignity of the individual concerned and in order to serve the public interests, primarily in the social field.
 6. Points to the need, in view of the increasing freedom of movement within the Community, to approximate the laws of the Member States on refusal to perform military service, the procedures applicable thereto and alternative forms of civilian service;
 7. Calls upon the governments and parliaments of the Member States to examine whether the existing national regulations in this field meet the requirements set out above;
 8. Proposes a joint meeting between representatives of the European Parliament and the parliaments of the Member States with the object of defining common ground for legislation in this area;
 9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.