

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

17 June 1980

DOCUMENT 1-247/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr BOYES, Mr LOMAS, Miss QUIN, Mr COLLINS,
Mr GRIFFITHS, Mrs CLYWD, Mr ENRIGHT, Mr KEY, Mr BALFE,
Mr SEAL, Mr MEGAHY, Mr GALLAGHER, Mr ADAM, Mrs BUCHAN,
Mr ROGERS, Mr CABORN, Mrs CASTLE, Mr VAN MINNEN,
Mr ALBERS, Mr PETERS and Mrs SALISCH

with request for urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure
on the closure of the Consett steel works

The European Parliament,

- aware of its previous resolutions concerning social considerations which must accompany the restructuring of older industries,
 - noting that the announcement to close the Consett steel works in the North-East of England by the end of September was made on 12 June 1980,
 - aware that almost 4,000 jobs will be lost immediately by the closure of the works in this one-industry town and that the unemployment rate in the town will be in excess of 35%,
 - further aware that the total number of jobs lost in the region as a consequence of the closure will be well over 5,000 and that the Northern region has the highest unemployment rate in Britain,
 - understands that the announcement of the closure has been made only 3 weeks before the newly appointed chairman, Mr Ian McGregor, takes office,
 - notes that the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation has issued a writ to be heard in the High Court for a declaration that the British Steel Corporation (BSC) is in breach of its statutory duty to consult the union before closure as laid down by the Iron and Steel Act 1975,
1. Condemns the closure of the Consett steel works because of the terrible social consequences that will be caused;
 2. Requests the BSC to revoke the closure notice and to carry out a full review of the situation;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, Commission and the governments of the Member States.

Justification for urgency

The closure is due to take place at the end of September 1980.