

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

16 SEPTEMBER 1981

DOCUMENT 1-496/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr SCHMID, Mr von der VRING,
Mr WALTER, Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL and
Mr van MINNEN

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the establishment of a European oil
purchasing company serving the public
economic interest

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the business policy pursued by the multinational oil companies which are at present responsible for the bulk of European oil supplies,
- having regard to the existence in most of the Member States of the Community of totally or partially state-owned oil companies,
- referring to its opinion of 18 April 1972 on the proposal for a regulation on the application of the statute of 'joint undertakings' to the activities of companies in the hydrocarbons sector,
- having regard to the possible achievements of a European oil company serving the public economic interest,
 1. it could act as a correspondingly strong market force serving the public economic interest which would challenge the monopoly enjoyed by the seven multinational undertakings and make for genuine competition. The consumer would then no longer be subject to arbitrary price decisions taken by the oil companies;
 2. the Community would no longer be so dependent on American companies in the crucial matter of raw material supplies;
 3. the possibilities of preventing a monopoly would increase considerably if a powerful body could provide reliable data from inside the market;
 4. industrial cooperation, which experience shows to be concentrated around the oil companies operating in the producer countries, would receive a boost. This would improve the Community's trade balance;
 5. direct agreements on oil supplies between the Community and the producer countries would then become a genuine possibility. Just as the governments which conclude bilateral agreements set up national oil companies to act as a national 'point of contact' for oil supplies and negotiations, direct agreements between the Community and the oil-producing countries would require a 'European point of contact'. The European oil company could be established as a limited company with a clear majority of the shares in public ownership through the European Community. Private investment would, however, not be excluded;

calls on the Commission to take the appropriate steps to promote the establishment of a European oil company partly under public ownership;

instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.