

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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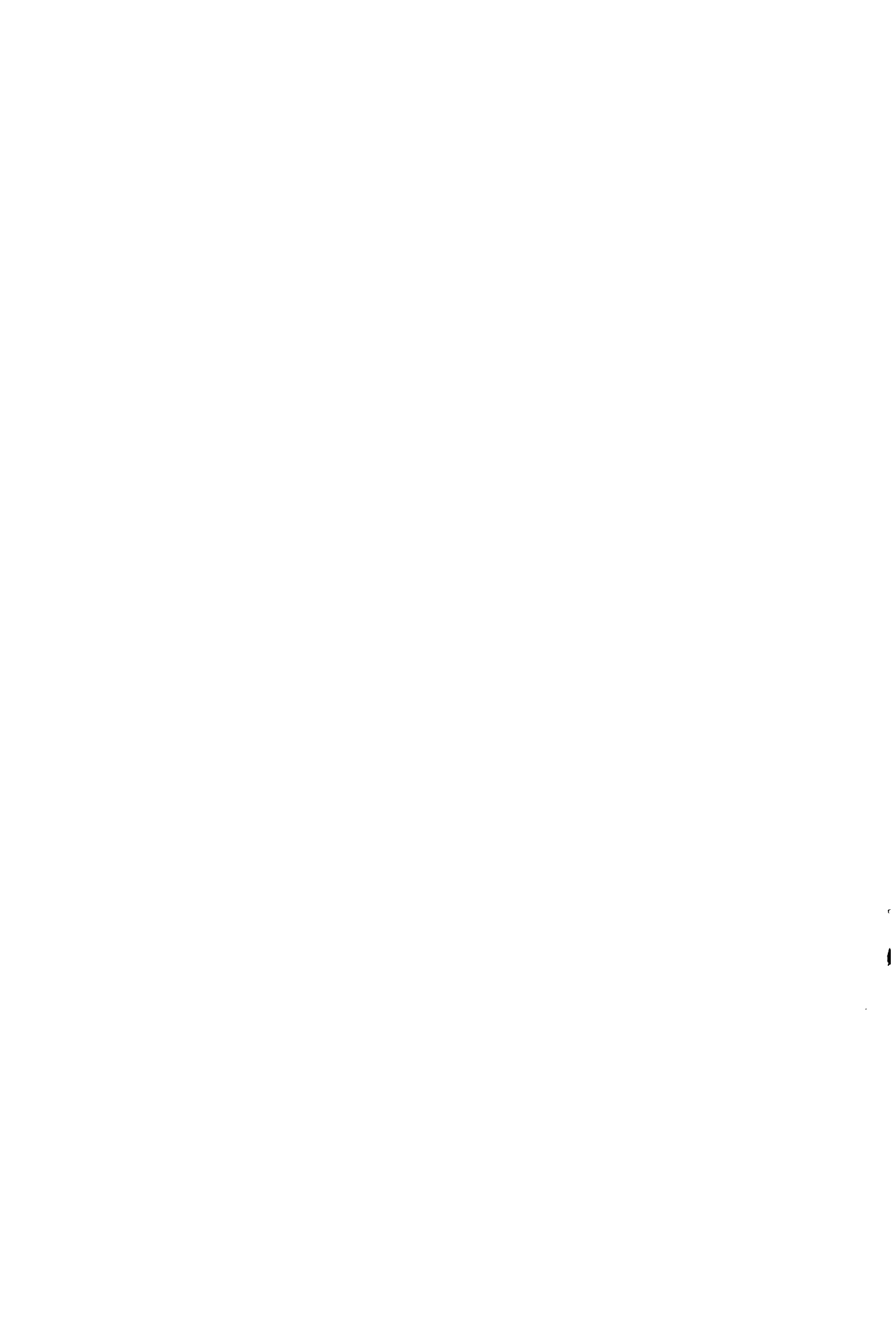
DOCUMENT 1-488/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr PETERS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on industrial medicine and safety at the place  
of work

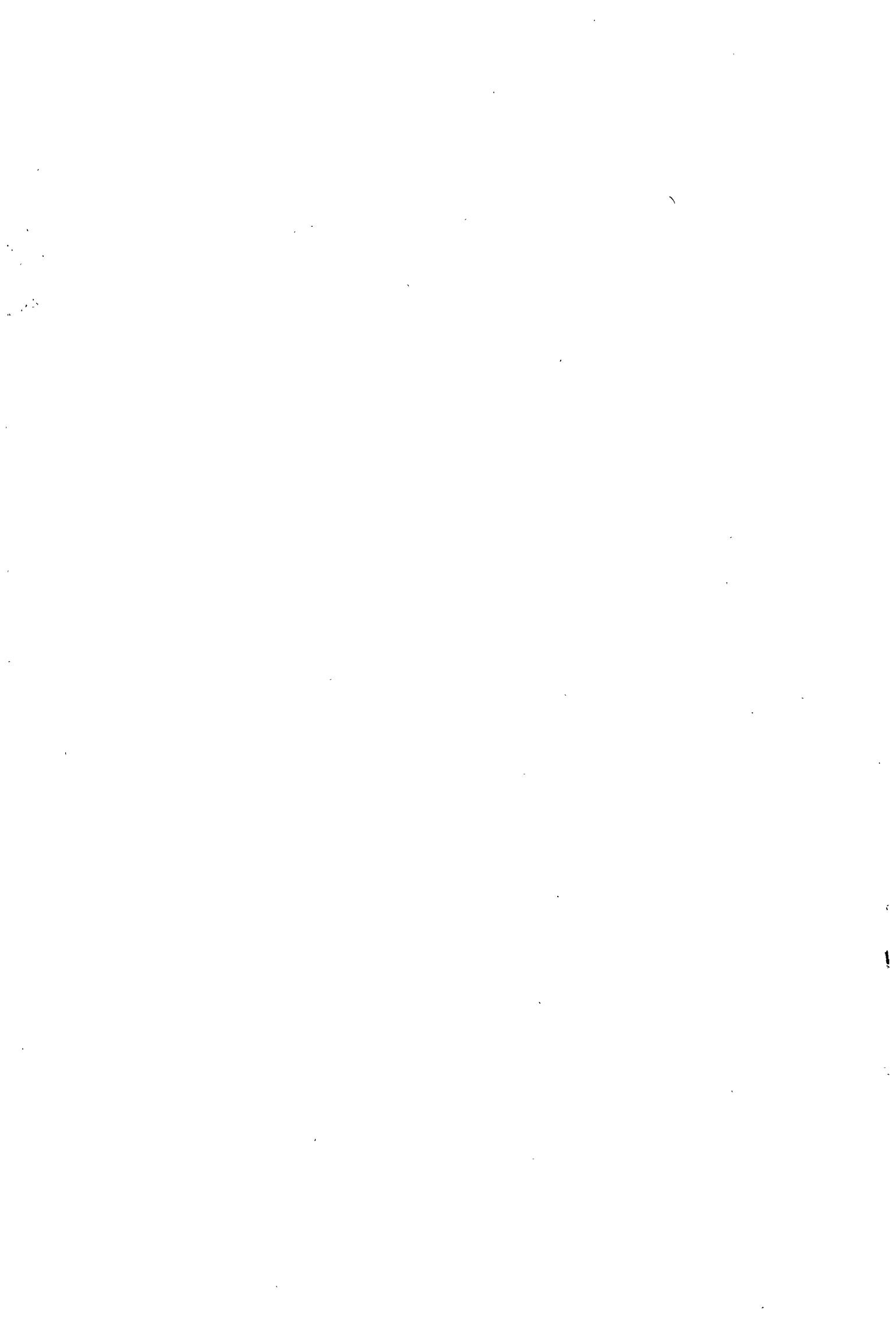


The European Parliament,

- A - whereas, on the one hand, extensive scientific research efforts in the last two decades in the field of industrial medicine have led to new discoveries that could prove highly beneficial to the health and safety of workers in undertakings and firms,
- B - whereas, on the other hand, actual developments in industrial medicine in the Member States of the Community are nevertheless finding only limited practical applications, and have not everywhere led to comprehensive legislation, although the latter could contribute fundamentally to the humanization of work,

1. Takes the view that

- (a) it is now a matter of some urgency to take steps to develop common and uniform principles for the Member States, embracing the practice of industrial medicine and safety at the place of work,
- (b) industrial medicine and safety at the place of work must be tackled as a coherent whole, since a great number of questions relating to the safety and protection of the worker at his place of work extend into the field of industrial medicine,
- (c) common arrangements in the field of industrial medicine and safety at the place of work are necessary for socio-political reasons, since both the individual interests of particular workers and collective interests of a social nature can best be served by common procedures,
- (d) there is a close relationship with the principle, already operative, of free movement of labour, in relation to which national legislation on the practice of industrial medicine must be approximated, since continuing discrepancies are liable to be detrimental to workers availing themselves of free movement, in one country or another, thereby obstructing the proper functioning of the Common Market,
- (e) there is an undeniable common health-policy aspect in the fact that increasing numbers of undertakings and firms in the Community have legal or economic contacts with each other, and that for this reason discrepancies in provisions governing industrial medicine can no longer be justified,
- (f) the general call for humanization of work can be the better complied with the more uniform and progressive are safety provisions for workers,
- (g) further research in the field of industrial medicine would be facilitated if it could be based on more common objectives,



2. Calls on the Commission to begin work, or speed up any existing work, on a proposal for a directive in the field of industrial medicine and safety at work.

The legal basis for a proposal for a directive could be Article 100 of the Treaty in conjunction with Article 118.

A proposal for a directive should include arrangements for the following as first measures of approximation of national legal provisions:

1. The concept of 'industrial medicine' must be given a commonly acknowledged definition and cover safety at the place of work. Only if there is uniform definition of the concept can it be expected to lead to real improvements in workers' working and living conditions;
2. Industrial medicine must be geared to the individual work place and cover all areas relevant to workers' health and safety (medical care, working methods, work hygiene, ergonomics). In its preventive role it must also help to eliminate or improve bad working conditions detrimental to workers' health;
3. It is essential that all firms be required to provide an employee health care service. Smaller firms and undertakings should be helped to finance the necessary facilities jointly. The cost of employing qualified staff, preferably on a teamwork basis, should be borne by the employers. This staff must be allowed to operate in complete independence of management and/or employers.
4. All categories of workers must be covered by a single set of arrangements. Since they are the ones directly concerned, they and their representatives must be given their full say on matters of industrial medicine and safety at the place of work, and in running the facilities provided;
5. As a further measure of approximation of medical provisions, it will be essential for industrial medicine to address itself more directly to industrial illness. The first step must be to draw up a common list of all recognized industrial illnesses in the Community.

PETERS

