

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

10 FEBRUARY 1981

DOCUMENT 1-896/80 /rev.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr SARRE, Mr DELORS, MR PISANI, MR OEHLER,
Mrs CHARZAT, Mr PETERS, Mr MIHR, Mrs SALISCH,
Mr van MINNEN, Mr JAQUET, Mrs LIZIN, Mrs ROUDY, Mrs CRESSON
Mr GRIFFITHS, Mr MOICHANE, Mrs van den HEUVEL, Mr SEAL,
Mr DIDO', Mr ROGERS, Mr BALFE, Mrs CLWYD, Mr HERKLOTZ,
Mr BOYES and Mr PERCHERON

with request for urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation of the motor vehicle industry
in the EEC

The European Parliament,

- noting the failure of the negotiations conducted by the Commission with the Japanese authorities in respect of trade relations between the EEC and Japan, particularly as regards imports and exports of motor vehicles,
- noting once again the unbalanced nature of this trade due in large measure to the obstacles raised to the entry of European products onto the Japanese market, to excessive disparities in social conditions or to trends in the exchange value of the Japanese currency,
- deploring the fact that some countries and undertakings pursue, towards Japan and its undertakings, uncoordinated strategies which can only lead to a deterioration of the situation of the European industry, already hard hit by declining activity and unemployment,
- recalling the resolution adopted by Parliament at its January 1981 part-session calling for concerted action and full cooperation between the European countries with a view to ensuring the survival and progress of the motor vehicle industry which plays a vital role in the economy and in society,
- whereas at the high-level EEC-Japan negotiations the Japanese authorities refused to give any undertaking to limit their car exports with a view to establishing more balanced trade between the two partners,
- whereas the agreements concluded between certain Japanese manufacturers to establish factories in Europe give no assurance that they will respect the rules of competition,
- whereas, in view of what is now at stake for Europe, the negotiations with the Japanese must produce specific and concrete results,
- whereas furthermore, paragraph 9 of the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 13 January 1981 states: 'if these contacts and negotiations do not produce the desired results, the Community must then rapidly adopt the necessary measures to protect its market',
- calling on the Council, which is due to meet shortly in Brussels, to draw the appropriate conclusions from the failure of the negotiations and, as a matter of urgency, to take decisive trade measures to protect the Community market,
- whereas, given the disparate attitudes adopted by the countries of Europe to the construction of Japanese factories, it is essential for the EEC to adopt a coordinated strategy in order to safeguard the future of the motor vehicle industry in the Member States,

- disturbed by the deterioration in the situation of this industry during the current phase of economic recession,

1. Calls upon the Council to consider forthwith the whole question of trade relations between the EEC and Japan and to take the energetic measures which are necessary to ensure the defence of our motor vehicle industry and the development of trade based on reciprocity;
2. Calls upon the Council, should this action fail, to take such measures as may be necessary in the commercial and in the technical and financial sectors to restore the position of European industry on the Community market and on external markets;
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council.

JUSTIFICATION

The failure of the latest round of negotiations between the EEC and Japan makes it necessary for the Community to take a harder line in discussions on Japanese imports. The Japanese trade offensive is a serious and immediate threat.