

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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DOCUMENT 1-501/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs THEOBALD-PAOLI, Mr JAQUET and Mr JACQUES MOREAU

pursuant to rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on extended action by the Community in the new technologies
sector

The European Parliament

- A. having regard to the results of the Versailles Summit of industrialized countries (5 and 6 June 1982) and the decision of the seven countries, with which the European Community associated itself, to launch a concerted programme to revive the world economy and recover growth by developing technology and harnessing it for the benefit of employment and working conditions;
- B. having regard to the previous initiatives of the European Parliament in this area, in particular the motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-346/80) by Mrs GASPARD and Mr BALFE on the state of the market for electronic products in Europe and on the consequences for employment, and the report (Doc. 1-189/82) by Mr HERMAN on the same subject, the objectives of which must continue to be pursued and above all extended;
- C. having regard to the motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-93/82) on measures to promote research in Europe;
- D. whereas Europe's ability to maintain its potential for growth and international influence depends largely on its ability to adapt to the development of new technologies, thereby following the example set in Japan and on the west coast of the USA where the public and private sectors have invested in these fields;
- E. whereas electronics and data processing are the new technologies that can be developed most quickly and our present command of these technologies makes it possible to anticipate rapid growth in this sector;
- F. whereas these technologies can lead not to the reduction of jobs but to the creation of new jobs of a more varied kind and requiring greater skills, if certain social conditions and methods of labour organization are introduced in various sectors;
- G. whereas, according to the proposals put forward at the Versailles Summit, the Community must become the priority framework for the action of the various Member States;

H. whereas it is the aim of the European Economic Community, according to the spirit and the letter of the Treaty of Rome of 25 March 1957, to ensure the economic prosperity of the Member States and whereas it must use every possible means to this end, including more intensive research into the links between technology and employment;

I. whereas the Community must to this end ensure the exploitation of the very important work carried out by the specialized research institutions established under the aegis of or within the Member States, such as the World Centre for Data Processing and Human Resources set up in Paris;

J. whereas the questions of environment and employment are closely linked;

K. whereas the profound differences that exist between the national markets, due in particular to the priority too often given to national tenders in the awarding of public contracts, have unquestionably hindered the development of enterprises in sectors where innovation is extremely rapid;

1. Affirms its resolve that technology should be harnessed for the benefit of employment and working conditions;

2. Requests the governments of the Member States to set up an extensive training system by organizing, from 1983, a specific scheme in each country for training in the new technologies (for example in the following sectors: new energy sources, telecommunications, robotics, new materials, composite materials, electronics, artificial intelligence, space, biotechnology and agricultural technologies specially intended for the Third World), concentrating on the following three main groups:

- priority training of engineers and technicians;
- training for the young unemployed, aged from 16 to 18;
- retraining in the new technologies for workers in mid-career;

3. Requests the Commission to draw up as quickly as possible a special independent programme for exchanges and cooperation among Europeans in the training field, in conjunction with work that the OECD might undertake;

4. Requests the Commission to set up a centre to observe the new technologies in order to monitor the changes in the occupations concerned, possibly in cooperation with the ILO;
5. Requests the Council to develop, after consulting the two sides of industry, the European research policy in the fields of labour organization, working conditions associated with the new technologies, their effects on hours of work and the possibilities of reducing hours of work as a result of the new technologies;
6. Requests the Commission to draw up a programme to evaluate the successful and unsuccessful experiments conducted in towns and the effects of technological changes on urban life;
7. Considers it urgent to complete the unification of company law in the Community and requests the Commission to submit the appropriate directives to the Council;
8. Considers that in order to create the conditions for enterprises to become more competitive on both the European and world markets, the Commission and the Member States must encourage enterprises to coordinate and combine their efforts in order to achieve greater profitability;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission of the European Communities, to the Council and to the governments of the Member States.