

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VERNIMMEN, Mr GLINNE, Mr JOSSELIN,
Mrs CRESSON, Mr COLLA, Mr WOLTJER, Mr RADOUX and
Mr VAN MINNEN

pursuant to rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on measures to protect the starch industry in
Europe

PE 68.908

The European Parliament, . . .

- having regard to the increasing level of imports of maize gluten feeding-stuffs and other substitute products,
- having regard to the difficult position of the European starch industry to which recent closures bear witness,

- whereas:

since 1975 the levy on maize has been about the same as the world market price of maize,

maize therefore costs twice as much inside the Community as outside, it can be assumed that this situation will continue unchanged in the years ahead, every 100 kg of maize converted into starch yield 24 kg of maize gluten feedingstuffs, 3.2 kg of maize cake and 2.9 kg of oil; these products have to be sold on a market where the price is determined by the world market price for maize and imported products cost half as much,

- whereas there is no outlet, either in the United States or elsewhere, for these additional maize gluten feedingstuffs,

1. Notes that the by-products of the maize starch industry maize gluten feedingstuffs (23.03 A II), maize cake (23.04.B I) and maize oil (15.07 D II) are not regarded as agricultural products and therefore fall outside the scope of EEC agricultural regulations on cereals. The importation of these products into the Community is not subject to agricultural levies or import duties, except in the case of maize gluten feedingstuffs, on which there is a fixed duty of 10%, only a fraction of that on the maize equivalent; furthermore, these products are bound under GATT;
2. Stresses that imports of maize gluten feedingstuffs from the USA have increased steadily since 1975 and have doubled in the last three years, that these imports will increase still further in the coming years as a result of massive investment in isoglucose and gasohol production, and that imports can be expected to double again in the next two to three years;
3. Considers that the Community market will continue to be flooded with cheap maize gluten feedingstuffs.
4. Stresses that this situation is untenable for the European starch industry and, what is more, constitutes discrimination against the European industry to the advantage of the American industry;
5. Urges that this unacceptable situation be brought to an end immediately by the introduction of a levy on the maize equivalent;
6. Urges that, if a levy is not feasible in the short term because of the GATT

binding arrangements, European maize starch producers should be allowed to import maize free of the levies on the by-product equivalent;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission of the European Community.

