

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

22 December 1980

DOCUMENT 1-773/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

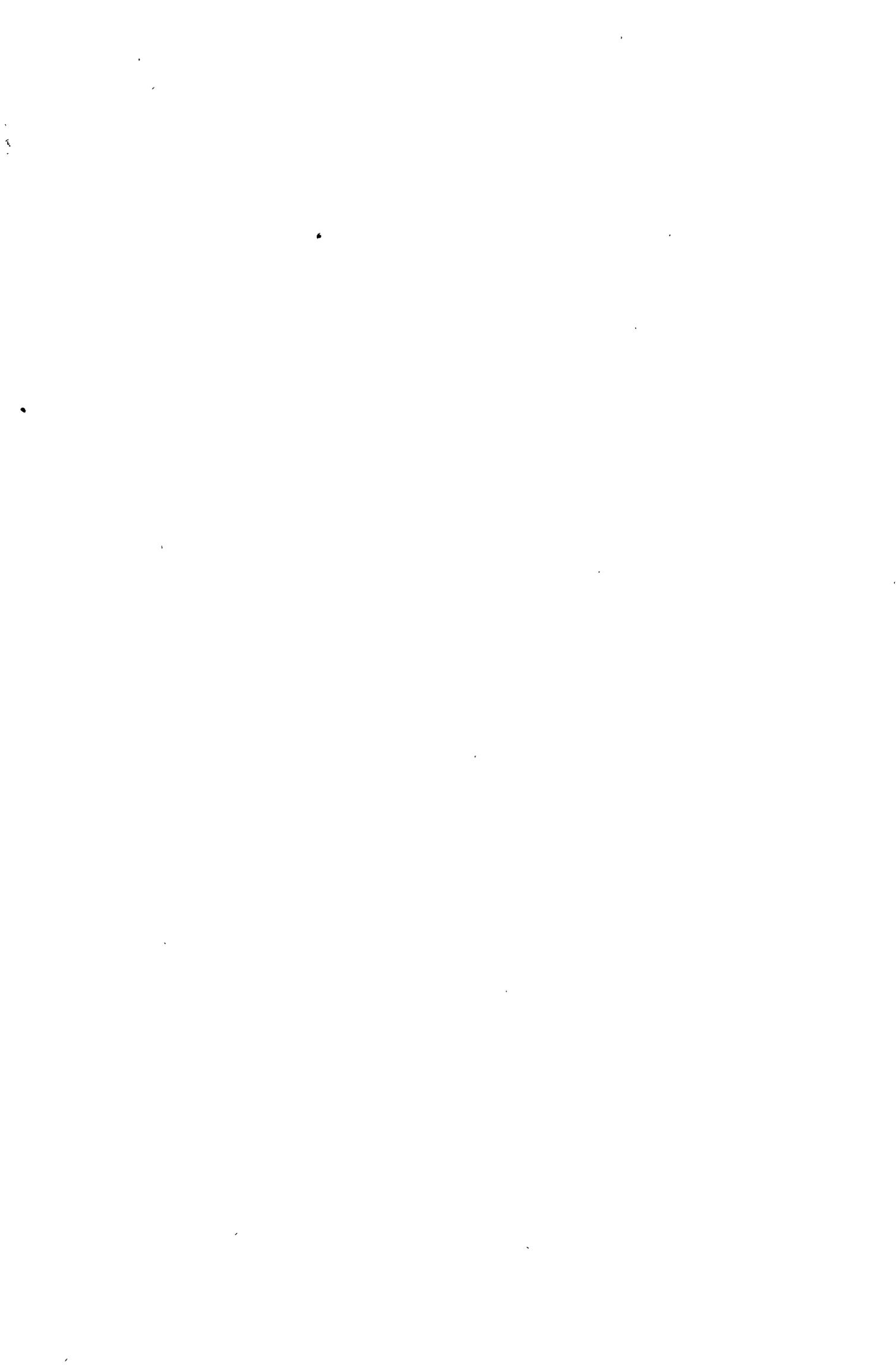
tabled by Mrs CINCIARI RODANO, Mr CERAVOLO
and Mr PAPAPIETRO

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on the education of the children of migrant
workers

The European Parliament,

- whereas Article 17 of Regulation 1916/68 defining the rules on the free movement of workers provides that workers from another Member State of the Community should be entitled to education, vocational training and retraining under the same conditions as the workers of the host state,
- whereas on 25 July 1977 the Council adopted a directive on the education of the children of migrant workers from other Community states in the the individual national school systems and on measures to ensure tuition in the language and culture of their country of origin,
- whereas Article 4 of that directive stipulates that Member States shall take the measures necessary to comply with the directive within a period of four years, but no action has yet been taken although the deadline expires in one year's time,
- whereas on 23 May 1980 Mrs CINCIARI RODANO and others tabled an oral question to the Commission on the progress made to date in implementing the directive and on ensuring observance by the Member States of the 1981 deadline,
- noting the Commission's written reply (H-194/80) and in particular the following three serious statements made by it:
 - the Commission noted that as of November 1979 few Member States had taken further steps to improve the education of migrant workers' children ;
 - it affirmed that it did not yet have sufficiently reliable statistics on the irregular school attendance of foreign children ;
 - it expressed concern at this urgent and serious problem which, unless actually resolved, could become a 'time-bomb that we shall later never succeed in getting under control' ;
- confirming the vital importance of a real rather than a marginal adjustment of the educational system to the major phenomenon of migration throughout the Community, and aware that multilingualism and mutual knowledge of each other's national cultures are essential to the future of Europe ,

1. Requests the Commission to remedy forthwith the lamentable shortage of specific statistical information on the situation of school-age children and on the educational structures in immigration areas by studying the following questions:
 - what are the absolute and percentage figures for migrant workers' children in the various states (or regions which have their own school legislation) as regards attendance at kindergarten, compulsory education, secondary education of various kinds and at various levels and vocational training school ;
 - how many migrant workers' children actually take advantage of the compulsory tuition in their language and culture of origin and how many of them follow analogous courses on a voluntary basis ;
 - are there any major disparities between migrants' children and the local population as regards the numbers who attend courses leading to an educational qualification, repeat classes, leave school early or obtain access to secondary education and vocational training ;
 - what curricula have been planned and what measures have been adopted as regards text books and teaching and auxiliary material designed specifically for teaching the language and culture of the country of origin ;
 - to what extent has such tuition been allocated to mothertongue teachers from the culture of the country of origin or to teachers from the host country ;
 - what means are available to teachers to update the general and specific subjects relating to the migrants' culture of origin ;
2. Hopes, in view also of the imminent enlargement of the Community, that appropriate agreements will offer the children of workers from third countries the same status as regards their national language and culture within the educational structures of immigration areas, and considers it necessary to ensure that no discrimination arises or remains vis à vis these children ;
3. Deplores the prolonged inertia of the Council of Ministers of Education ;
4. Requests the Commission to take the necessary steps to demonstrate the urgent and important nature of these problems and to put the following recommendations before the Member States :



- tuition in the language and culture of the country of origin of migrant workers' children must be given as part of the normal timetable and school curriculum, accompanied by general provisions for multilingual education at Community level, at suitable times and by suitable methods, which means abandoning the widespread tendency to consider such tuition as a marginal and unusual feature of school education ;
- this tuition must be given by teachers from the country of origin ;
- this tuition must begin at kindergarten level ;
- the children of migrant workers must not enter the school system of the host country in separate educational institutions or in institutions which have little contact with the local school ;
- a comparative study must be made of the practice of assigning migrant workers' children to special classes and schools for backward or difficult children, as a direct and indirect result of their linguistic and cultural difficulties ;
- steps must be taken forthwith to ensure the equivalence of all educational qualifications in the various Community countries ;
- the Member States must consult each other and jointly study the question of migrant workers joining trade unions and parent-teacher associations.

