

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

15 December 1980

DOCUMENT 1-659/80

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-210/80) for a Council Recommendation to the Member States concerning the recovery and reuse of waste paper and board

Rapporteur: Miss Gloria HOOPER

By letter of 28 May 1980, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Council Recommendation to the Member States concerning the recovery and reuse of waste paper and board.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

On 22 October 1980, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Miss Gloria HOOPER, rapporteur.

The Committee considered the proposal at its meeting of 22 October 1980 and adopted the Motion for a Resolution at its meeting of 28 November 1980 unanimously.

There were present: Mr Collins, chairman; Mr Johnson, vice-chairman; Mrs Weber, vice-chairman; Miss Hooper, rapporteur; Mr Forth (in replacement of Mr Vanneck); Mrs Krouwel-Vlam; Mrs Lentz-Cornette; Mr Muntingh; Mrs Maij-Weggen; Mr Mertens; Mrs Seibel-Emmerling; Mr Sherlock; Mr Verroken.

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A.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following Motion for a Resolution, together with Explanatory Statement.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Council Recommendation to the Member States concerning the recovery and reuse of waste paper and board

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission's proposal¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council (Doc.1-210/80),
 - having regard to the report by its Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-659/80),
1. Warmly welcomes this proposal of the Commission to promote the use of recycled paper and board in the Community;
 2. Approves the Commission's proposal, subject to the following recommended amendments pursuant to Article 149(2) of the EEC Treaty:

¹ OJ C 135 of 6.6.1980, p. 3

Proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Council Recommendation to the Member States concerning the recovery and reuse of waste paper and board

PREAMBLE

1st and 2nd indent of Preamble - unchanged

3rd indent of Preamble

Whereas waste paper constitutes a significant percentage of urban waste and is technically recoverable as a valuable secondary raw material for the manufacture of certain paper and board products;

3rd indent of Preamble

Whereas waste paper constitutes a significant percentage of urban waste and is technically recoverable on a selective basis as a secondary raw material for the manufacture of certain paper and board products;

4th indent of Preamble - unchanged

5th indent of Preamble

Whereas there is a deficiency (over 50%) in the Community's present needs of raw materials for paper and board manufacture which has to be made up by imports from non-member countries;

5th indent of Preamble

Whereas there is a deficiency (over 50%) in the Community's present needs of raw materials for paper and board manufacture which has to be made up by imports from non-member countries of both pulp and of paper and paper products, the latter being manufactured mainly from virgin fibre;

Add 6th indent to Preamble

6th indent of Preamble

Whereas the Community should aim to recover 60% of its present paper and board consumption which would require a substantial increase in the existing level of recovery of waste paper;

RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDS that Member States define and implement policies to promote the use of recycled paper and board and particularly:

RECOMMENDS that Community Institutions and Member States define and implement policies to promote the use of recycled paper and board and particularly:

1st indent of Draft Recommendation

- encourage the use of recycled - and recyclable - paper and board, especially in the national administrations, public bodies and those national official services which can set an example;

- encourage the use of recycled - and recyclable - paper and board, especially in the Community Institutions and in the national administrations, public bodies and those national official services which can set an example;

(1)

For complete text see C 135 of 6.6.1980, p. 3

2nd, 3rd, and 4th indent of Draft Recommendation - no change

5th indent of Draft Recommendation

- | | |
|---|---|
| - develop and promote uses for waste paper other than as raw material for the manufacture of paper and board; | - develop and promote uses for waste paper <u>not appropriate for use</u> as raw material for the manufacture of paper and board; |
|---|---|

Add 6th indent to Draft Recommendation

- encourage schemes for selective recovery of domestic as well as industrial waste paper at competitive quality and prices.

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The following factors deserve special consideration in view of the priority given by the Community to the recovery and reuse of waste paper and board as part of its second and third environment programmes.

2. A steady increase in paper consumption is anticipated and recycling is the best guarantee of the preservation and protection of the Community's forests and also provides an outlet and use for the increased waste resulting from the increased consumption.

3. Although currently there is no shortage of wood pulp, either within the Community or on a worldwide basis, the Community should aim at a policy of reducing dependance on imports in an effort to regulate price fluctuations.

4. Recycling has been proved to be more energy efficient than manufacture from raw materials and obviates, at least in part, the costs of waste disposal.

5. There has been a natural (non-obligatory) increase in the use of recycled paper and board for paper production from 1950 (28.1%) to the current level of 43.3% and it is recognised that the maximum practicable use for recycled material in paper production is 60%, since the quality of fibres deteriorates with repeated use and an admixture of virgin material is necessary to extend their lifespan. This upwards trend is of interest in view of the fact that only in one member country of the Community (Denmark) is there an obligation on public authorities to use recycled paper. This underlines the fact that a recommendation on the lines of the present proposal is adequate to promote that trend to the optimum level.

6. The Community's action in this field should be regularly reviewed and, in particular, the results of the multi-annual research and development programme, now due by the end of 1981, should be given special attention.