

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

15 DECEMBER 1980

DOCUMENT 1-730/80/rev.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr DAVERN, Mr FANTON, Mr CLEMENT,
Mr REMILLY, Mr de LIPKOWSKI, Mr COUSTE,
Mr DOUBLET, Mr de la MALENE, Mr ANSQUER,
Mr CRONIN, Mr DELEAU, Mrs FOURCADE, Mr ISRAEL,
Mr TURCAT, Miss de VALERA, Mr VIE, Mrs WEISS,
Mr FLANAGAN, Mrs EWING, Mr NYBORG, Mr LALOR,
on behalf of the Group of European Democrats,
Mr CLINTON, Mr McCARTIN, Mr RYAN, Mr KAVANAGH,
Mrs DESMOND, Mr HUME, Mr GALLAGHER, Mr BLANEY
and Mr J.D. TAYLOR

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

on the crisis in farming incomes in Ireland

The European Parliament,

- considering that farm incomes in the EEC generally are going through one of the most serious crises in modern times,
- considering the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy as set out in Article 39 of the Treaty,
- considering the vital role that agriculture plays in the Irish economy which is unique in the EEC, as evidenced by the fact that agriculture represented, in 1980, 17.1 % of Ireland's Gross National Product, the next highest in the Community being Italy with 7.8 % as compared to an EEC average of 3.6 %,
- considering that inflation in the EEC generally averages 12 1/2% while in Ireland the figure is closer to 20 %,
- considering that farm input prices are reckoned to have risen by 9 1/2% overall in Europe by the latest estimates, as against 15 1/2% in Ireland,
- considering that when interest charges on borrowings have been taken into account, the farm input percentage increase in Ireland is as high as 25 % in certain cases,
- considering that farm output is up by 2 % in the Community as a whole and is down by an estimated 1/2 % in Ireland,
- considering that farm incomes for the Community as a whole are down on average by 10 % in real terms, for last year, and down an estimated 25 % in real terms in Ireland,
- considering that the cumulative decrease in income over the last two years is as high as 50 % in certain cases,
- nothing with concern that over 50 % of farms in Ireland produced a family farm income of less than 3,000 EUA per farm last year, which is proportionately far less than before EEC membership,
- bearing in mind that 22.2 % of the work force in Ireland is employed in agriculture,
- considering that the drop in the agriculture work force due to redundancy in Ireland has been 1.6 % over the last two years, and continues to decrease,
- alarmed by the consequent threat of further unemployment in one of the hardest hit areas of the Community,
- considering that a further decline in the farm sector in Ireland could have a disastrous and long-term effect with serious repercussions for European agriculture in general,
- considering that agriculture in Northern Ireland is seriously affected by circumstances similar in every way to the situation set out in the

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above considerations,

- acknowledging the recent initiative of the Irish Government in proposing to the Commission for approval a series of measures which would greatly contribute to resolving the crisis in the Irish farm industry,

1. Calls on the Commission to take immediate steps to implement measures to adequately deal with the crisis situation in the agriculture sector in Ireland;
2. Requests that the Commission take similar appropriate measures to assist the equally seriously hit farming sector in Northern Ireland;
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.

Justification

The justification for urgent debate is contained in the indents.

