

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

15 October 1980

DOCUMENT 1-483/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr LUSTER, Mr PFENNIG, Mr KLEPSCH,
Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI, Mr VERGEER, Mr RUMOR,
Mr PENDERS, Mr HABSBURG, Mr GOPPEL, Mr Konrad SCHON,
Mr FUCHS and Mr BROK

on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the increase in the minimum exchange requirement
for visits to the DDR

The European Parliament,

1. Condemns the action of the authorities in the DDR in raising the German mark exchange requirement for travellers from the Federal Republic of Germany as a move that will undermine the progress that has been made hitherto towards freedom of movement;
2. Notes that this action is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Helsinki Agreement;
3. Calls on the authorities in the DDR to allow complete freedom of movement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the DDR as soon as possible, and at the very least to withdraw the measure in force since 13 October 1980 immediately;
4. Urges the governments of the Member States to raise this matter in the forthcoming talks with the USSR and the DDR, and in particular to consider it as a matter of urgency at the CSCE follow-up Conference in Madrid;
5. Asks its President, bearing in mind that the DDR has been granted special advantages by the Community as an economic partner of the Federal Republic of Germany, and thus of the Community as a whole, to have this resolution forwarded, through suitable emergency channels, to its government.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

It is well known that particularly severe restrictions apply to persons leaving the DDR for the Federal Republic of Germany on entering the DDR from the Federal Republic.

Except in a few special cases, the right to leave the DDR for the Federal Republic of Germany is only available to old age pensioners.

Visits to the DDR by citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany, including Berlin (West) are subject to the condition that West German marks must be exchanged for East German marks at the rate of 1:1 and to a value of not less than DM 13.50 per day.

The DDR authorities have now unilaterally raised the minimum amount that must be exchanged from DM 13.50 to DM 25.00 with effect from 13 October 1980.

This increase is a deliberate move to make it even more difficult than it is already to travel from the Federal Republic of Germany to the DDR. The measure will be particularly inhumane in the numerous cases where the reason for the visit is the close family ties between inhabitants of the Federal Republic of Germany and those of the DDR, since it will, for example, affect those paying visits to their children or to other members of their families. It will also cause particular social hardship to lower income groups such as young people and pensioners or other old people.

The measure is a flagrant violation of the principle of greater freedom of movement enshrined in the CSCE declaration, it violates the Four-Power Agreement on Berlin and the treaty agreements between the two German states. It is, on a more general plane, an obstacle to efforts to bring about detente in Central Europe.

The Community Member States are urged to protest energetically at the behaviour of the DDR, not only for humanitarian reasons and reasons of detente policy, as these are understood in the Community, but also because the Community treats the DDR in its trade with the Federal Republic of Germany almost as if the DDR - as a part of greater Germany - were also a part of the Community.