

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1979 - 1980

---

11 February 1980

DOCUMENT 1-744/79

### MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr BEUMER, Mrs VAN DEN HEUVEL,  
Mr KLEPSCH, Mr MAJONICA, Mr VERROKEN, Mr FISCHBACH,  
Mr GEURTSSEN and Mrs DEKKER

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure  
on the fixing of book prices

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the request, submitted by a Dutch and Flemish organization representing publishers, importers, wholesale and retail sellers of Dutch-language books, that the provisions of Article 85(3) of the EEC Treaty should not be applied to the agreement they have drawn up to fix the price of books in the Netherlands and Belgium, including the resale price in the other country,
  - believing that the consumer's interest in the purchase of books is far more than simply an economic interest,
  - noting that the special agreement between publishers and booksellers enables them to offer the consumer a wide variety of books,
  - noting that in the Federal Republic of Germany, legislation on monopolies also makes an exception in the case of publishing houses (paragraph 16 of the Law Prohibiting Restraints of Competition),
1. Regards the answer to Oral Question No. H-324/79, in which the Commission states that it is not required to consult the European Parliament on procedures for implementing Article 85(3), as unsatisfactory since the matter involves more than the economic interests which are expressly dealt with in Articles 85 and 86;
  2. Notes that the fixing of book prices directly affects the interests of the individual (consumer) in the sphere of culture, education and information, to which, however, no reference is made in the EEC Treaty;
  3. Takes the view that those interests may not be disregarded on simple economic grounds;
  4. Instructs the Commission to inform the European Parliament of the manner in which it intends to solve this particular problem, taking proper account of the consumer's cultural interests.