

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

19 DECEMBER 1980

DOCUMENT 1-771/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs CLWYD, Mr ROGERS, Mr KEY, Mr GRIFFITHS,
Mr LOMAS, Mrs BUCHAN, Mrs CASTLE, Mr ENRIGHT,
Mr MEGAHY, Mr GALLAGHER, Mr COLLINS, Mr BOYES,
Mr SEAL, Mr O'LEARY, Miss QUIN, Mr ADAM,
Mr VAN MINNEN, Mrs VIEHOFF, Mr GABERT, Mrs LIZIN,
Mr SCHMID, Mr BALFE and Mr OEHLER

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

on the steel industry in Wales and the rest of
the United Kingdom

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the decision taken by Parliament to transfer 112 million ECU from the Community to the ECSC budget to help pay for early retirement schemes and short time working in the steel industries of France, Belgium and Britain and noting that a decision has been deferred by the Council of Ministers,
- having regard to the view of Parliament and the Commission that the economic and social aspects of restructuring the steel industry cannot be separated. (Coal and Steel Consultative Committee opinion September 1978 and March 1979) (European Parliament resolution February 1979),
- having regard to the announcement of a few days ago that a further 20,000 jobs are to be lost in the steel industry in the UK, on top of the 52,000 lost earlier this year,
- having regard to the fact that Wales stands as the hardest hit region in the whole of the Community in terms of steel job losses and associated job losses,
- having regard to the fact that very few possibilities exist for the redeployment of workers in the areas affected by redundancies because of already existing high levels of unemployment - 12.5%,

1. Believes that modernization must not take place in the steel industry at the expense of the worker and that the economic and social aspects of restructuring the steel industry cannot and must not be separated;
2. Believes that the speed and scale of the redundancies in the United Kingdom and particularly in Wales are incompatible with this view;
3. Heeds the view of UK politicians of all parties who have warned of the risks of 'serious social disorder' in Wales if chronic levels of unemployment endure, particularly among the young;
4. Urges the British Steel Corporation to reconsider its strategy in the light of these factors.

Justification

Urgency is justified as the latest redundancies are to be agreed by the end of January, with serious consequences for workers in areas such as Wales, with few alternative job prospects.