

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

9 FEBRUARY 1981

DOCUMENT 1-879/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL, Mr VETTER, Mr MIHR
and 64 other signatories

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

on the charges brought against 13 trade union leaders
in Brazil

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the admonition to the Brazilian Government to promote social justice contained in its report on the cooperation agreement between the EEC and Brazil (adopted in the House on 16 January 1981),
 - whereas the charges of alleged violations of 'national security' brought against Luis Ignacio da Silva (known as Lula) and twelve other trade union leaders before a special military court constitute an act of pure despotism : the 'crime' of which the trade unionists stand accused consists of having organized a major strike in Brazil in April/May 1980 and of having called for collective bargaining, which was declared 'illegal' by the industrial court,
1. Calls on the Brazilian authorities to take immediate action to end this arbitrary trial, whose sole aim is to discipline Brazilian workers and their trade unions;
 2. Assures the unjustly charged trade unionists of its full support and solidarity and trusts that they will be exonerated completely;
 3. Calls on the Brazilian Government to put an end to the suppressive and disciplinary measures taken under the 'National Security Law' as they run counter to all principles of democracy and the sanctity of human rights. Failing this, the Brazilian Government will have to accept the criticism that its alleged policy of 'open government' is merely a sham for the benefit of the outside world and does not reflect the true internal situation.
 4. Instructs the President to forward this resolution to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community and to the Brazilian Government.

Justification for urgent procedure

The 13 trade union leaders have been charged with violations of Article 36(11) of the 'National Security Law'. This article carries a penalty of up to 12 years' imprisonment for 'incitement to acts of collective defiance of the law'. It is reported that the verdict is to be delivered by the military judges on 16 or 17 February.