

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

9 FEBRUARY 1981

DOCUMENT 1-884/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs CASTLE, Mr SEAL, Mr CABORN,
Mrs van den HEUVEL, Mr ROGERS, Mr FOTILAS
Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL, Mr PLASKOVITIS, Mr GRIFFITHS,
Mrs CLWYD, Mr van MINNEN, Mr COLLINS, Mr BALFE,
Mr BOYES, Mr VERNIMMEN, Mrs BUCHAN, Mr NIKOLAOU,
Mr CHARALAMPOPOULOS, Mr MEGAHY, Mr ADAM, Mr ENRIGHT
on behalf of the Socialist Group

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

on the intended closure of the Tate and Lyle cane
sugar refinery in Liverpool

The European Parliament,

- noting that Tate and Lyle Ltd have announced their intention of closing their cane sugar refinery in Liverpool, currently refining 300,000 tonnes of sugar, as soon as possible, with the loss of some 1,570 jobs in an area where unemployment is already 15.4%;
 - noting that this closure is due to the expansion of beet sugar production in the Community in general and the UK in particular, which has left insufficient room for Tate and Lyle sugar in the UK market, while the dumping by the EEC of subsidized sugar surpluses on the world market has made Tate and Lyle exports unprofitable;
 - noting also that this closure will reduce UK cane sugar-refining capacity to a level which makes it impossible for the Community to refine the full quantity of raw cane-sugar traditionally imported into the UK from the ACP countries;
 - noting the Commission's responsibilities to ensure that sufficient cane sugar-refining capacity is maintained in the Community to absorb the continuing import of 1.3 m tonnes of cane sugar from ACP countries, to which the Community is solemnly committed under the Lomé Convention;
1. Expresses the hope that the decision to close this refinery can still be reversed;
 2. Calls on the Commission to examine urgently what help it can give to prevent this closure and the steps it intends to take to ensure the maintenance of an adequate cane sugar-refining capacity in the Community;
 3. Asks the Commission to report urgently to the Parliament;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to Council and Commission.

JUSTIFICATION

The Tate and Lyle sugar refinery in Liverpool is to be closed as soon as possible as a result of the Community's sugar policy and with the loss of 1,570 jobs. This will make it impossible for the UK to continue to refine the full quantity of its traditional imports of cane sugar. ACP countries have expressed alarm at the effect this will have on the Community's obligation under the Lomé Convention. Urgent action is therefore needed to prevent closure.