

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Miss HOOPER, Mr Christopher JACKSON,
Sir Fred WARNER, Mr BATTERSBY and Mr PRAG

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on illiteracy in the fourth world

The European Parliament,

- aware that four million men, women and children throughout the European Community, representing 5% of the total population, remain in a state of extreme poverty,
- noting that this section of the population (known as "the Fourth World"), is now seeking to participate normally in society and that the International Movement ATD Fourth World estimates (as a result of meeting thousands of young people who leave school without having mastered the basic elements of reading, writing and arithmetic) that the rate of illiteracy is inordinantly high in spite of compulsory education,
- believing that this catastrophic situation remains too much an unacknowledged fact, represents a very serious omission in the basic right to education and training, and eventually employment, and constitutes an important loss for European culture and economy,

is anxious to respect human rights everywhere in the world, and particularly within the European Community:-

1. Asserts its deep concern at the extent and persistence of illiteracy in the Community;
2. Asks the Commission to prepare a report on illiteracy in the European Community with a view to proposing to the Council the necessary initiatives, in order that:
 - young people will no longer leave school without having mastered the basic elements of reading, writing and arithmetic,
 - illiterate adults are given opportunities to learn to read and write without loss of self respect and in such a way that their identity and background is acknowledged.
3. Asks the Commission to carry out periodic evaluations of the efforts undertaken to overcome illiteracy in each Member State, stressing, in particular, progress made with regard to the most disadvantaged citizens.
4. Calls upon the Council of Education Ministers to consider the problem of illiteracy within the European Community as a priority.
5. Calls upon the President of the European Parliament to forward this motion to the Commission and to the Council.