

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1984-1985

20 November 1984

DOCUMENT 2-1020/84

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr MOORHOUSE

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the dangers of protectionism in US-EEC trade relations

PE 93.907

The European Parliament,

- A. anxious to improve general trade relations between the European Community and the United States of America,
 - B. committed to the maintenance and extension of a free and open world trading system, based on the principles and obligations laid down in the GATT,
 - C. aware of mounting pressure in a number of specific sectors of EEC-US trade, tendencies which, if unchecked, could easily generate protectionist responses on either side,
 - D. determined to avoid any such towards protectionism, believing that its effect could only be to limit consumer choice, increase domestic prices, inhibit competition and generally make less efficient the allocation of resources in the two economies, so worsening the recession and forestalling recovery,
 - E. concerned also that any drift towards protectionism in the US-EEC trade sphere would gradually corrode mutual trust and confidence on a more general political plane, with attendant dangers for the strength of Western security as a whole,
1. Requests its relevant Committee to draw up a general report on the current state of US-EEC trade relations, building on the basis of the Rieger Report on the same subject passed by the previous Parliament;
 2. Considers that this new report should focus inter alia on the origins and consequences of trade disputes in steel, agriculture, high technology goods, and other areas of recent concern;
 3. Considers that the report should pay particular attention to recent protectionist trends in the US Congress, so far largely resisted by the US Administration, and assess the possible effect of any successful Congressional legislation on US international obligations;
 4. Believes that the report should offer positive solutions to encourage trade liberalisation on both sides, and should not shirk from identifying illiberal trade practices on the part of the Community wherever such practices occur.