

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

19 MAY 1980

DOCUMENT 1-171/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr DE PASQUALE, on behalf of
the Committee on Regional Policy and
Regional Planning ¹

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

on the revision of the Regulation
establishing the European Regional
Development Fund before 1 January 1981

1

The following voted in favour of urgent procedure:

Mr DE PASQUALE, Mrs DESMOND, Mr E. FAURE, Mr BAUDIS, Mrs BOOT,
Mr CARDIA, Mr CECOVINI, Mr CRONIN, Mr DALSASS, Mr DELMOTTE,
Mr DELOROZOY, Mr FANTI, Mr FUCHS, Mr GALLAGHER, Mr GOUTHIER,
Mr GRIFFITHS, Mr HARRIS, Mrs HOFF, Mr HUTTON, Mr JANSSEN VAN RAAY,
Mrs KELLETT-BOWMAN, Mr KIRK, Mrs MARTIN, Mr MICHEL, Mr O'DONNELL,
Lord O'HAGAN, Mr PEARCE, Mr PRICE, Mr PULETTI, Miss QUIN,
Mr RUFFOLO, Mr Karl SCHÖN, Mr J. D. TAYLOR, Mr VERGEER,
Mr VERHAEGEN and Mr von der VRING.

The European Parliament,

1. Points out that Article 22 of the European Regional Development Fund Regulation¹ stipulates that 'on a proposal from the Commission, the Council shall re-examine this regulation before 1 January 1981';
2. Recalls that the European Parliament has already stressed the serious shortcomings² of the Fund Regulation and pointed out that the revision of the regulation in February 1979 did not remedy all these shortcomings and has limited the scope of the non-quota section;
3. Recalls that the Council has undertaken, in the framework of the conciliation procedure with Parliament, 'to take special note of the Assembly's concerns' during the next review, which must take place before 1 January 1981;
4. Points out that the Council of Ministers has habitually failed to observe the deadlines set down for the establishment or revision of the ERDF³;
5. Urges the Commission to submit proposals in good time, and by September 1980 at the latest, for the revision of the ERDF Regulation, which Parliament considers inadequate;
6. Recommends that the Commission should immediately open a dialogue with Parliament's Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning to prepare for this revision;
7. Deplores the fact that the Council has still not adopted the implementing Regulations allowing the non-quota section (which should have been created before 1 January 1978) to be set up.
8. **Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.**

¹ Regulation (EEC) No. 724/75 of the Council of 18 March 1975 establishing a European Regional Development Fund (OJ No. L 73, 21 March 1975, p.1) amended by Regulation (EEC) No. 214/79 of the Council of 6 February 1979 (OJ No. L 35, 9 February 1979, p.1) - updated version, OJ No. C 36, 9 February 1979, p.12

² Paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution of 15 April 1980 (Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of 15 April 1980, PE 64.404, p.13)

³ In October 1972 the Heads of State or Government meeting in Paris asked the Community Institutions to establish a Regional Development Fund before 31 December 1973; in July 1973 the Commission submitted a proposal for a regulation establishing a European Regional Development Fund which the Council did not adopt until 8 March 1975;

- This Regulation provided for a review before 1 January 1978 (Article 18); the Commission therefore submitted a proposal for amendment in June 1977, which the Council did not adopt until 6 February 1979.

JUSTIFICATION

The European Parliament has already stated that the present ERDF Regulation is unsatisfactory, and it must therefore be revised within the deadline laid down (i.e. before 1 January 1981). Experience has shown that with the Commission's proposals being submitted in June or July for a decision before the end of the year, the Council is not reaching a decision until more than a year after the time limits set down.

It is therefore a matter of urgency for the Commission to be asked to prepare its proposals and submit them in time for the European Parliament to deliver its opinion and the Council to act before 1 January 1981.

