

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr GERONIMI

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on increasing the Community's financial aid to Corsica

PE 84.606

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas Corsica suffers from innumerable disadvantages owing to the fact that it is one of the Community's peripheral islands with a very sparse population,
- B. whereas Corsica has one of the highest levels of youth unemployment and long-term unemployment in the Community,
- C. whereas its economic development is hindered by the distance that separates it from the main commercial centres, by the fact that its local markets are small and scattered, by high transport costs, by inadequate infrastructure and by the difficulties of introducing economies of scale,
- D. whereas Corsica's main hopes lie in the development of agriculture, small and medium-sized undertakings, tourism, service industries, cooperatives and improved and cheaper transport,
- E. whereas adverse factors such as a dry climate, arid, mountainous terrain, inadequate irrigation and the continual threat of fires compound the difficulties faced by Corsica in the agricultural sector, thereby contributing to rural depopulation and urban concentration with all the resultant social consequences of decline in agriculture,
- F. whereas Corsica could benefit from an EEC Agricultural Development Programme similar to those in operation in the West of Ireland and Southern Italy,
- G. taking into account the current debate on the revision of the ERDF, the DELMOTTE and DE PASQUALE reports and the revised proposals submitted by the Commission,
- H. regretting the proposal that Corsica should lose its entitlement to benefit from the quota section of the Regional Fund; bearing in mind that in the statistical report that served as a basis for the Commission's proposals for the revision of the ERDF, Corsica was included in the larger, relatively wealthier region of Provence - Alpes - Cote d'Azur,

- I. conscious of the fact that Corsica has been excluded from the present and future programmes of the ERDF's non-quota section,
- L. aware of the present proposals to revise the European Social Fund and the anticipated proposals to revise the regulations on agricultural structures,
- K. whereas it would be desirable to undertake a complete review of Corsica's entitlement to benefit from the Community's various financial instruments,
 1. Calls on the Commission to submit a series of proposals designed to increase the Community's financial aid to Corsica;
 2. Calls on the Council and Commission to reconsider the proposal that would prevent Corsica, a French region, and mainland France, from benefiting from the ERDF's quota section;
 3. Calls on the Commission to reconsider its proposals for a second package of measures in the ERDF's non-quota section, with the aim of setting up a non-quota Regional Development Programme in Corsica; suggests, consequently, that the Commission should immediately give a public undertaking of support for and commitment to the European Parliament's proposals that projects in the non-quota section should be extended to specific projects on behalf of peripheral, depopulated islands;
 4. Recommends that this non-quota Programme should improve the inadequate infrastructure in Corsica, encourage the development of small and medium-sized undertakings - including tourism and cooperatives - and improve and reduce internal and external transport costs;
 5. Calls on the Commission to submit appropriate proposals for an Agricultural Development Programme designed to develop agricultural potential in Corsica which would include provisions to improve irrigation and other essential agricultural facilities;
 6. Considers that any action taken on behalf of agriculture in Corsica should be gradually integrated into other forms of Community action as experience is acquired in administering existing integrated development operations;
 7. Stresses the importance of including environmental protection in any development project for Corsica;
 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.