

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

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DOCUMENT 1-443/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VAN MIERT, Mr DE GUCHT,
Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE, Mr GLINNE, Mrs SPAAK,
Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK, Mrs LIZIN, Mr VERNIMMEN,
Mrs DURY, Mrs PAUWELIJN and Mr RADOUX

for entry in the register pursuant
to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure

on equal treatment of religious and
non-religious beliefs

PE 85.473

The European Parliament,

- A - having regard to Article 9 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights, which guarantees the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief,
 - B - considering the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Communities and the Joint Declaration of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, in which these institutions have stressed that they attach the very greatest importance to the protection of fundamental human rights as deriving in particular from the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights,
 - C - noting that in most Community Member States equal treatment of religious beliefs is a fact,
 - D - noting that, apart from in the Netherlands and in some federal states of the German Federal Republic, religious and non-religious beliefs do not enjoy full equality before the law in any Member State.
 - E - considering that the world views of millions of Community citizens consist of non-religious beliefs,
 - F - seeing that some Member States are already making arrangements or subsidizing initiatives in support of non-religious beliefs,
 - G - holding the view that the lack of full equality of treatment both de_jure and de_facto constitutes an anomaly in the system of justice that the Community is seeking to achieve,
 - H - being of opinion that it is the Community's endeavour to further the full development of its citizens on all planes, not least on that of philosophical belief,
1. Points out that the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief is a fundamental right;
 2. Holds the view that the completely equal treatment both de_jure and de_facto, religious and non-religious beliefs must be achieved in all Member States as soon as possible;
 3. Calls on the Commission to carry out as soon as possible an inquiry into the situation with regard to equal treatment of religious and non-religious beliefs in Member States;
 4. Charges the Commission to draw up a directive on the subject;
 5. Calls on the Member States to take in the meantime all necessary measures to give effect to the equal treatment referred to above;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the European Council.