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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr LEGA and Mr ADONNINO

pursuant to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure

on the EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Scope of loans and access to credit for investment
in the trade sector

LAPSED

The European Parliament,

having regard to Article 129 of the Treaty of the European Economic Community concerning the establishment of the European Investment Bank,

having regard to Article 130 of the EEC Treaty which defines the tasks of the EIB, which involve granting loans and giving guarantees that facilitate the financing of projects in all sectors of the economy, operating on a non-profit-making basis,

- A. having regard to the socio-economic developments which have taken place in recent years and recognizing that the tertiary sector has assumed an increasingly important role in the European economy,
- B. whereas it is necessary to readapt or reconsider the fixed policies followed up so far within a framework that takes account of the special nature of the tertiary sector,
- C. whereas within this sector trade represents the largest constituent part whether this be measured quantitatively or in terms of the indispensable role that it plays in the economy,
- D. whereas within the context of a Community policy of aid to investments to boost the economy it is necessary to make a number of suitable financial means available to trade,
- E. whereas the Bank finances public infrastructures and investment projects in various productive sectors, principally industrial and agricultural, but also in the service sector,
- F. whereas the Bank can only finance investments which contribute directly or indirectly to the increase in general economic productivity,
- G. whereas the EIB has shown that there is a need for a greater contribution to investment aid on a small and medium scale in the form of global loans with particular reference to SMUs

- H. whereas on the basis of loans granted by the EIB in 1980, the sectors of energy communications and other infrastructures were granted 78.7% of total loans, industry 15.8%, agriculture 0.6% and global loans 4.9%,
- I. whereas the financing operations of the finance granted under the global loan system have so far been restricted to small and medium-sized industrial undertakings,
- J. whereas investment for jobs in small and medium-sized undertakings which have benefitted from EIB loans, was on average 37,000 ECUs (1980),
- K. whereas the role of trade is to make goods available to consumers where and in whatever quantity they require,
- L. whereas the productive sector of the economy only becomes effective when goods are sold,
- M. whereas the role and activity performed by trade are the real means for achieving a genuine EUROPEAN INTERNAL MARKET and help to promote rationalization and competitiveness in industrial undertakings,
- N. whereas in order to achieve the best result in terms of efficiency it is necessary to make financial aids available to trade to encourage investments for the rationalization of the distributive sector,
- O. whereas trade is the second largest economic sector in terms of the number of persons employed with 14.7 million employees (of which 11 million are employed in SMUs), and contributes 12% to the gross internal product of the Community,
- P. whereas trade has guaranteed and, in many cases, increased the number of jobs available even in a period of prolonged economic recession,
- Q. whereas technological progress, through the extension of automation, will tend to lead to a decrease in the number of jobs available and whereas this tendency is evident to a minor degree in trade activities compared to other sectors,

- R. whereas 1983, which is the Year of the SMU encompassing all such undertakings whatever form they may take, must be a time for taking political decisions with a view to boosting the economy and therefore calls for a number of incentives to produce positive results in all sectors in which SMUs operate,
- S. whereas the EIB, as the administrative body responsible for the implementation of the NCI, cannot ignore the fact that the latter, with reference to loans for investments in SMUs, has made provision for the inclusion of the trade sector on an equal footing with other sectors,
1. Requests that the trade sector be given recognition and made eligible for inclusion within the scope of EIB intervention;
 2. Requests that SMUs be granted access to finance provided for under the system of global loans;
 3. Requests that the problem of guarantees be reconsidered and readjusted with regard to the special nature of trade activity;
 4. Requests that such loans be subject to a favorable rate of interest on conditions to be defined, and that the Community conclude agreements with the Governments of the Member States to grant and extend exchange guarantees to SMUs that intend to take out the loans in question;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Ministers.

