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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr ANSART, Mr FERNANDEZ, Mr PIQUET,
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pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on the deepening of the crisis in the textile
and clothing industry in France

10/001

The European Parliament,

- whereas in 1980 production in the textile and clothing industries fell by 4.5% and 10% respectively, leading to the loss of more than 30,000 jobs,
- whereas more than 200,000 jobs have been lost in these industries over the last 10 years,
- whereas this rapid rundown is a result of a common and deliberate policy of the groups that dominate this industry, and of the European Institutions with the approval of the Governments of the Ten,
- whereas this policy has led in particular to:
 - a substantial decline in the investment index in France which fell from 105 in 1972 to 55 in 1979,
 - a large growth of profits, which has been used not to strengthen national production capability but to finance the redeployment of French groups abroad,
 - the abandonment in France of whole sections of this industry, in particular those involving the most advanced technologies,
 - substantial public finance for the largest groups to help with their redeployment strategy,
 - the maintenance and intensification of the most scandalous forms of exploitation of workers, in particular women,
 - the dramatic deterioration in the economic and social situation of certain regions, in particular Nord and Pas de Calais, which have shed more than 20% of the jobs provided by this industry in six years,
 - the growing dependence of France, which now imports more than half of its textile requirements,
- whereas this situation is not the result of imports of textile products from developing countries, as 67% of French imports come from the EEC, particularly from Germany, 85% from industrialized countries and only 15% from the developing countries,
- whereas imports from these countries are used to justify the crisis to conceal the real causes and in order to hide a desire to defend the interests of multinational companies,
- whereas, in particular, imports from the ACP countries are negligible, representing only 1.8% of Community imports,

- whereas this situation is not due to a lack of competitiveness on the part of the French industry nor to the high costs of the latter, since wages in the Federal Republic of Germany, France's main supplier, are 36% higher and this industry in fact pays the lowest wages,
 - whereas if this policy is not successfully resisted, it will lead to the loss of a further 200,000 jobs by 1985,
1. Considers that application of the Multifibre Arrangement has demonstrated the failure of the EEC to resist US pressure and that it does not cover imports from Community countries;
 2. Advocates putting a halt to European policies which are contributing to the destruction of the French textile industry, policies drawn up by the Brussels Commission and approved by the Governments of the Ten;
 3. Notes that a recovery of the textile industry would be possible if efforts were made to boost consumption substantially, abandon austerity policies, raise low salary levels, put an immediate stop to the re-deployment of major textile groups and repatriate capital invested abroad, in most cases to profit from subsistence wage levels;
 4. Underlines the absolute need for national measures to put an immediate stop to the deliberate dismantling of the French industry, including:
 - the application of the safeguard clauses provided for in the Rome Treaty and under GATT;
 - the conclusion of bilateral agreements to limit the volume of imports to a level similar to that for exports of other goods;
 - the collection at national frontiers of a tax to offset the price advantage of imported products over domestically produced goods;
 - the banning of imports of products manufactured by firms or subsidiaries of firms which have cut back jobs in France;
 5. Insists that these objectives be taken into account in negotiations on the new Multifibre Arrangement;
 6. Considers that enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal will be used to do further damage to the textile industry, particularly in France;
 7. Adds that these objectives, far from seeking to create an autarkic economy at a time of expansion in international trade, are intended to lead to a commercial policy based on the recognition of mutual interests with a view to creating a strong domestic industry independent of the major groups and to establish fruitful cooperation with the developing countries by permitting the rapid growth of trade in textile products with these countries.