

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

6 May 1981

DOCUMENT 1-211/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to be entered in the register

tabled by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE

pursuant to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure

on the seat of the European Parliament

19/11/81

The European Parliament,

- whereas the Members of the Parliament are hampered in the effective exercise of their parliamentary mandate by the division of the work of Parliament between Strasbourg, Luxembourg and Brussels and, as a consequence thereof, Parliament is obstructed in the execution of its main function, namely exercising control and advisory functions in respect of the Commission and Council,
- whereas this dispersal of work, together with uncertainty as to the seat of Parliament, results in difficult working conditions for the staff and gives rise to tensions, both for them and for their families,
- whereas the extremely high additional expenditure resulting therefrom (travel, accommodation, rental of three sets of office-space and meeting-rooms) can certainly not be justified in the long term,
- having regard to its resolution calling on the Council of Ministers to take a decision on the seat of Parliament by June 1981 and noting the confirmation of the status quo at the March 1981 Summit,
- whereas the decision on the seat should normally be the subject of a Treaty but, in the absence thereof, Parliament itself has the right and the duty to take a decision as to its seat,
- whereas, if the Parliament wishes to carry out effectively the work it is supposed to perform under the Treaty, Brussels is the only possible choice since the Commission and the Council are established there,
- whereas Brussels is, moreover, the easiest place to get to for most of the Members and is also the best equipped,
- noting, however, that Brussels lacks a sound well-thought-out policy for urban development and that the city is expanding in an uncontrolled fashion, thus contributing to the denaturalization of the Flemish suburban communes, which are becoming more and more frenchified as an integral part of this process, and that in the past the establishment of Community Institutions in Brussels has served to aggravate these problems,
- noting that most of the problems relating to the status of Brussels within the Belgian context are still unresolved and that relations between the different communities in Brussels (particularly the French-speaking and Dutch-speaking communities) are still unsatisfactory and that the presence of 250,000 immigrants poses very serious problems, about which nothing is being done either,

- noting, consequently, that the city that aspires to become the capital of Europe is obviously incapable of fulfilling its role as the capital of Belgium,

1. Decides that Brussels shall become the seat of Parliament, the place of residence of its staff and the place in which parliamentary activities will take place.
2. Confirms that the implementation of this decision will require a transitional period, since the needs of all those involved must be duly taken into account, and in order to keep the costs as low as possible.
3. Requests emphatically that the staff of the Parliament be consulted, through their elected representatives on the planning and implementation of this transfer throughout the procedure.
4. Insists that there be thorough consultations with, on the one hand, the Brussels authorities and, on the other, the representatives of both communities so as to rule out the possibility of any negative consequences arising from the transfer of the seat of Parliament to Brussels and, on the contrary, to ensure that it contributes to the balanced development of the city of Brussels within its nineteen communes.
5. Requests the Belgian Government to make the necessary efforts to arrive at a satisfactory solution to the social, economic and constitutional problems of Brussels so that it can function as the capital of Belgium in a manner acceptable to Flemings and French-speakers alike before it undertakes the role of capital of Europe.
6. Asks the Bureau to set up a team of officials to be responsible for the planning and implementation of the move to Brussels and the associated consultations.
7. Asks the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Budgetary Control to make a thorough study of the financial implications of the move.
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the other Community institutions, to the governments of the Member States, to the Brussels authorities and to the representatives of the Flemish and French-speaking communities.