

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs DURY

Pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on improving the living conditions of women in the
Third World by developing and introducing appropriate
technologies

PE 81.863

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas 76% of the active female population of Africa works in the agricultural sector and in Black Africa 22% of families are run by women - rising to 33% in some cases - owing to the emigration of men;
- B. whereas in the Third World women in rural environments spend 60% of their time working the land, undertake wood-gathering and water-carrying duties twice a day to meet the needs of their families, and that furthermore, women are responsible for processing basic foodstuffs, involving, for instance the crushing and milling of cereals which are very time-consuming activities and account for 40% of the remaining available time;
- C. whereas in addition to the tasks outlined above women bear and raise numerous children and, assume all family obligations;
1. Calls on the Commission to consider ways and means of improving the working and living conditions of women in the Third World, notably by introducing appropriate technologies while taking into account the following principles:
- the technologies must be principally manual to avoid dependence on external sources of energy,
 - technologies dependent on external sources of energy must take into account the very limited financial means of basic communities and hence of women in such communities and, they must be designed on energy saving criteria,
 - in general terms, they must be simple and easy to maintain and repair,
 - they must be compatible with local customs,
 - the technologies to be promoted must improve working conditions within a cottage-industry rather than an industrial framework (which would deprive women in the Third World of work),
 - finally, any on-site identification mission must include a female expert and contact the group of women concerned;

2. Calls on the Commission to encourage research in the appropriate technologies to alleviate the tasks of women in the Third World, in particular in the following spheres:
 - wood-gathering: by designing better homes so that substantial amounts of energy can be saved,
 - water-carrying: by increasing the number of wells and improving the pumping systems (pulleys, animals, pumps, etc.);
3. Calls on the Commission to help make available to women in the Third World the technologies developed in this way as well as existing technologies in the following spheres:
 - food-processing: hand mills for grain, groundnut, manioc etc., shellers, decorticators, oil-presses, desiccators for fruit, grain, fish etc.....
 - agricultural tools,
 - looms;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission of the European Communities.