

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr de la MALENE and Mr BORD on behalf of
the Group of European Progressive Democrats

with request for topical and urgent debate pursuant
to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on the difficulties facing the footwear industry

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the footwear industry, from the point of view of production, consumption and foreign trade, is in a wholly comparable situation to that of the clothing industry,
- B. whereas the same is true as regards the fall in the number of jobs and in production,
- C. whereas the footwear industry, unlike the clothing industry, has not so far benefited from a coordinated and resolute Community policy,
- D. whereas, as a result of unfair conditions of competition, especially as regards wage costs, and of the opening of Community markets, the import penetration rate within the EEC has risen from 20 to 30% in the last few years,
- E. whereas, nevertheless, the European footwear industry has faced up to the crisis by carrying out a dynamic policy of technological adjustment and reorganization aimed at maintaining competitive overall capacity, particularly on foreign markets, which take up nearly a third of its output,
- F. whereas, to conclude, European exports on the markets of the industrialized countries, particularly Japan, Canada and Australia, and those of the developing countries, meet with highly dissuasive customs tariff levels or official non-tariff barriers, and whereas certain of the Community's industrialized partners, notably the USA, are preparing to step up these measures,
 - 1. Calls for genuine freedom of trade in footwear articles to be observed among industrialized countries and for every possible step towards this end to be taken without delay in the competent international bodies or in the context of high-level bilateral negotiations;
 - 2. Calls for genuine reciprocity to be established in trade between the Community and developing countries;

3. Calls for the prompt adoption of an international plan and rules aimed at protecting Community brands and patterns and preventing international fraud;
4. Calls, in the absence of an international agreement similar to the Multifibre Arrangement, for selective protective measures to be taken as the need arises with regard to exports originating in countries with low manufacturing costs;
5. Calls for the rules applying to the textile-clothing sector under the Multifibre Arrangement to be extended to the footwear sector;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.

