

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

3 November 1981

DOCUMENT 1-669/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr Michael WELSH

on behalf of the Committee on External
Economic Relations¹

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

on the present state of the negotiations of
the renewal of the Multi-fibre Arrangement

¹The request for topical and urgent debate was also signed by Sir Fred CATHERWOOD, Mr SEELER, Mr RIEGER, Mr RADOUX, Mr GAWRONSKI, Mr VAN AERSEN, Mr de COURCY LING, Lord O'HAGAN, Mr G. FUCHS, Mrs LENZ, Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL, Mr HÄNSCH, Mr PELIKAN, Mrs MOREAU, Mr NIELSEN, Sir Fred WARNER, Mr de LIPKOWSKI, Mr MAJONICA, Mrs POIRIER and Mr LEMMER

The European Parliament

- having regard to the Treaty of Rome and particularly Article 113 thereof,
 - having regard to its resolution of 7 April 1981¹,
 - noting that production of textiles and clothing in the European Community has decreased in 1980/81,
 - aware that 120,000 textile and clothing workers are at present unemployed and 140,000 workers are affected by lay offs and short time working,
 - whereas imports from low cost supplying countries are an important element in these problems,
 - noting that the negotiations in Geneva to renew the Multi-fibre Arrangement are approaching a crucial stage,
 - having regard to the draft resolution by Mrs Focke and others (Doc 1-614/81) as well as to the draft resolution by Mr Bocklet and others (Doc 1-594/81),
1. Calls on the Council to take a decision on the Commission's proposals concerning Directives for the bilateral negotiations, a new approach for textile and clothing imports from the Mediterranean countries, and a Community regulation for outward processing, as soon as possible in order to enable the Community to take a position in the Multilateral negotiations in Geneva based on a full and coherent policy;
 2. Calls on the United States, Japan and other developed countries to absorb a fairer share of the burden of low-cost imports and notes in this context that according to GATT statistics the USA and Japan imported respectively one half and one sixth by value of the textile and clothing products imported by the Community from developing countries in 1979;
 3. Regrets that in spite of concertation efforts between the Community and other importing countries, no concerted position has yet been established between them within the context of the Geneva negotiations;
 4. Welcomes the Commission's adoption of many of Parliament's suggestions in its proposals for a Bilateral Mandate, notably

¹ OJ C 101 of 4 May 1981, pp 29-31

- import quotas must be related to the foreseeable growth of consumption in the Community, currently less than 2%;
 - acceptance of the principle of differentiation as regards newly industrialized and State Trading countries;
 - acceptance of the principle of reciprocal access for Community products;
 - acknowledgement of the need to make special provision for less developed countries;
 - acceptance of the importance of a price clause in Bilateral Agreements with State Trading countries;
5. Insists that universal global ceilings be established for imports from all low cost supplying countries and must include goods that are covered by an outward processing regime;
 6. Considers that quota revisions can only be made if reliable and mutually acceptable statistical data is available;
 7. Considers that the fundamental objective of the multilateral and bilateral negotiations must be to secure an appropriate level of protection for the Community's industry while there still exist in the world high tariff and non tariff barriers against Community exports and widespread forms of unfair competition at the same time aiming at the development of the open trading system;
 8. Insists that the restraint of low cost imports is only one element in the Community strategy for textiles and urges the Council to proceed with a comprehensive set of measures and give priority to their examination of the Commission's communication on the restructuring of the textile industry;
 9. Urges the Commission to use its best endeavours to bring about a speedy and satisfactory conclusion to the current negotiations;
 10. Instructs its President to send this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the accredited representatives of all MFA signatories and the Director-General of GATT.