

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-1303/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE

pursuant to Rule 47 of
the Rules of Procedure

on the possibilities for promoting
the regional identity of Alsace in
the Republic of France

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas European cooperation depends fundamentally on the response given to the legitimate aspiration of ethnic groups for freedom of cultural expression,
- B. having regard to resolution (75) 13 adopted on 22 May 1975 by the Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe and to the motion adopted on 25 August 1977 by the United Nations Committee for combatting discriminatory measures and for the protection of minorities,
- C. having regard to the Bordeaux Declaration (1 February 1978) made by the Council of Europe on the problems of regionalization with particular reference to the following articles :
- 'Article 3 : Every European's right to 'his region' is part of his right to be different. To challenge this right would be to challenge the identity of European man and ultimately of Europe itself;
- Article 8 : Regionalization does not only promote 'unity in diversity'. It is also one of the conditions of European unity itself;
- Article 17 : The policy of aid to regional development must be reformed to allow for the geographical dimension of Western Europe as a whole. Its sights must not be fixed solely on the economic aspect of development but also on the cultural and social aspects;
- Article 29 : The local and regional press and regional radio and television stations should be developed as indispensable means in the service of regional cultural autonomy; they should be sufficiently independent and well-equipped to further the region's cultural advancement'.
- D. having regard to its resolution of 16 October 1981 on a Community charter of regional languages and cultures and a charter of rights of ethnic minorities (Doc. 1-965/80) with particular reference to recitals 1,5,6,7,8.and 9 and to the substantive paragraphs,
- E. whereas the people of Alsace have demanded on several occasions official recognition and positive appreciation on the part of the government of their particular linguistic and cultural features,

1. Feels that in the framework of its cultural role the Commission should contribute actively towards the implementation of the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 16 October 1981 (Doc. 1-965/80) and particularly as regards the distinctive culture of Alsace in the Republic of France ;
2. Calls on the Government of the Republic of France to enhance the status of the Alsatian ethnic group by recognizing the special language and culture of the people of Alsace in practical terms through policies for education, mass means of communication, and relations between the local and regional authorities and the population;
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission of the European Communities and to the Government of the Republic of France.