

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr LEZZI

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the report from the Commission to the
Council on the first programme of pilot
schemes and studies to combat poverty

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 118 of the Treaty establishing the EEC, which calls on the Commission to promote close cooperation between Member States in the social field,
 - having regard to the Report from the Commission to the Council on the first programme of pilot schemes and studies to combat poverty,
 - having regard to the gravity of the current economic crisis which is reflected in an unacceptable increase in unemployment,
 - whereas the economic crisis affects already disadvantaged categories (handicapped, unemployed, elderly, illiterate etc.) particularly badly,
 - whereas the Community has not provided adequate protection for the interests of these categories even in periods of economic growth,
 - whereas the figure of 30 million poor in the mid-1970's quoted by the Commission in its Report on poverty, which means more than 30 million in 1982, is unacceptable in a Community which is seeking to ensure social progress,
 - whereas the problem of poverty should figure amongst the priorities for Community action,
 - whereas, furthermore, it is the duty of the European Parliament to draw the attention of public opinion and of the other Community institutions to the scale of poverty in Europe,
 - considering that the proposals contained in the Commission's report call for a practical response.
1. Supports the conclusions of the Commission's report concerning the need to extend Community action in the campaign against poverty,

particularly as regards :

- the need to increase aid from the Social Fund, the EAGGF, the Regional Fund and the Investment Bank by restructuring the Community budget to set up programmes for the overall social and economic development of underdeveloped areas or areas in decline within the Community with the aim of tackling the problem of long-term unemployment and covering the fields of education and training, re-education, advice, aids to worker mobility, placement services and early retirement
 - the need to contribute to the financing of national campaigns to combat adult illiteracy, teach the local language to adult immigrants and deal with the special educational needs of their children
 - the need to introduce a minimum income in all the Member States
 - the creation of an anti-poverty compensation bank with the aim of building on the results obtained so far
 - the creation of new jobs and the sharing of existing work as the mainstay of the anti-poverty campaign;
2. Supports the work of the voluntary organizations which operate in the areas affected by poverty in assisting the groups concerned (handicapped, long-term unemployed, illiterate, drug addicts, former prisoners etc.) and to relieve poverty but considers that their action is inadequate in view of the gravity of the problem;
 3. Regrets the fact that after many years of studies and pilot schemes encouraged by the European Parliament, the Commission has not yet submitted specific proposals to the Council on the campaign against poverty;
 4. Invites the Council to place the Commission's report on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs and to inform Parliament of the action which it intends to take on this report;
 5. Considers that a campaign against the causes of poverty, designed to combat illiteracy and to improve the situation of the elderly, handicapped, unemployed and people in other under-privileged groups, can in itself provide a means for the creation of new jobs;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.