

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

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DOCUMENT 1-1057/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr Ken COLLINS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on biological screening of the population
for lead

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council directive of 29 March 1977 on biological screening of the population for lead,
- having regard to the progress report from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on the implementation of the directive on biological screening of the population for lead,
- 1. Welcomes the progress report on the implementation of the directive on biological screening of the population for lead;
- 2. Notes that the quality control effort, in which more than fifty laboratories in all Member States participated, has allowed for the first time comparability of results to be achieved throughout the Community;
- 3. Notes with satisfaction that the first campaign to assess the body-burden of lead of the general population was carried out fully in all Member States;
- 4. Considers that the information obtained during this campaign regarding the lead body-burden of the population is scientifically valid and representative of exposure in urban areas;
- 5. Notes that the median blood lead level for the Community of 13 ug/100 ml is significantly below the Community reference level of 20 ug/100 ml and below what could have been expected from previous studies;
- 6. Notes with concern however that the blood lead level varies considerably from one area to another of the Community and that in a small number of areas the reference levels are approached and even exceeded;
- 7. Calls on the Commission to undertake urgently with the Member States the second campaign foreseen by the directive to assess the trends in exposure following the measures taken by Member States;
- 8. Requests that this second campaign focus attention on problem areas near lead emission sources;
- 9. Requests that the Commission prepare as rapidly as possible a second report on the implementation of the directive, following the second sampling campaign;
- 10. Considers that this report should contain detailed information of the measures taken by Member States, as foreseen by the directive, when the reference levels have been exceeded;

11. Calls on the Commission to give urgent consideration to extending this directive in time so as to be able to regularly follow the exposure of the population to lead using this biological-monitoring approach;
12. Invites the Commission to include in the extension of this directive other toxic persistent agents, such as cadmium and mercury, which are of public health and environmental concern.

