

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

11 SEPTEMBER 1981

DOCUMENT 1-488/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI, Mr KLEPSCH,
Mr VAN DER GUN, Mr von BISMARCK, Mr LIGIOS,
Mr VERGEER, Mr BEUMER, Mr HERMAN, Mr CROUX and
Mr COSTANZO, on behalf of the Group of the
European People's Party and
Mr PRAG, Mr SPENCER and Mr PATTERSON

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

on social policy priorities

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the report on the development of the social situation in the Community in 1979 (Doc. 1-128/80),
- having regard to the report on the development of the social situation in the Community in 1980
- having regard to the guidelines for the management of the European Social Fund during the period 1979-1981 and transitional guidelines for 1978 (OJ No C 116, 19.5.1978),
- having regard to the eighth report on the activities of the European Social Fund for the financial year 1980 (COM(80) 365 final),
- having regard to the report on employment and the adaptation of working time, the report on the effects of energy problems and technological development on the employment situation in the European Community and the report on Community employment policy (Docs. 1-425/81, 1-164/81 and 1-365/81),
- profoundly convinced that economic policy and social policy must be increasingly interdependent since the human and social dimensions of the national communities are increasingly bound up with economics and have significant repercussions,
- aware of the profound changes which are imminent in the economies of all the Member States and which will subject whole sectors of economic activity to rationalization and restructuring as a result of the crisis in certain sectors (steel industry, textile and clothing industries, shipbuilding, etc.) and because of the introduction of new technologies, and that these changes will necessarily involve the retraining of a growing number of workers,
- aware of the repercussions of telematics on employment,
- considering that employment and unemployment depend on a large number of technical factors such as
 - (a) economic policies aimed at slowing down inflation and solving balance of payments difficulties;
 - (b) changes in the patterns of international trade;
 - (c) changes in the relationship between capital costs and labour costs
 - (d) demographic factors;
- reaffirming that parliamentary resolutions aimed at influencing the social policy of the Member States must be immediately reflected both in cultural and economic terms in the action programmes and in the choices of beneficiaries of the social funds,

- believing it has a duty to study individual problems in detail, to find common principles and agreement on the significance of a number of key themes such as the family, participation and the society of today and tomorrow,
- noting that present generations, particularly young people, do not give work the same place in their scale of values, particularly as regards the quality of life,
- aware that all the organizations representing workers and employers, as well as professional and social organizations, must all come together to play their role in the process of economic, human and social growth in the countries of the European Community,
- deeply concerned by the fact that the number of unemployed in the Community has reached 8.9 million and that unemployment is particularly serious for young people, women and migrant workers as well as other less-favoured categories,
- considering that the present stagnation in economic growth threatens to increase further the rate of unemployment, to aggravate the loss of confidence among many young people and to damage the socio-economic fabric of the European Community,
- believing that it is particularly important for priority measures under the social policy to be undertaken in several directions and in such a way that they support each other in order to produce timely and appropriate solutions to the problems of employment and vocational training, investment, social security, financial instruments and the participation of social organizations,

A - Employment

1. Points out that one of the principal objectives of Community and national policies must be the fight against unemployment and believes that measures to help those who are already in stable jobs should be compatible with the pursuit of that aim;
2. Bearing in mind that a policy to expand productive investment must be accompanied by a regional policy capable of correcting the existing imbalances, believes it is necessary;
 - (a) to strengthen research and development as well as energy savings and environmental protection programmes;
 - (b) to strengthen the EMS by giving it greater stability;
 - (c) to fight inflation on all fronts;
 - (d) to eliminate distortions of competition;
 - (e) to increase investments;
 - (f) to fight constantly against protectionism particularly within the Community;

- (g) to ensure that the European Community and its Member States incorporate this policy successfully in a series of multi-annual employment programmes;

3. Believes that the following are also important:

- (a) combating the systematic use of overtime, illegal working and abuses of cumulating temporary jobs;
- (b) greater mobility in working arrangements and flexible and shorter working hours;
- (c) the introduction of more flexible retirement arrangements;
- (d) a policy to favour the employment of young people, activating and improving the special provisions and laws which so far have proved inadequate to solve the problem;
- (e) the adoption of and introduction of rules governing the restructuring of working time, to be brought about gradually and through different measures in each sector of production and in each Member State in order to help to rationalize the flow of supply on the labour market by introducing greater flexibility in working arrangements, in working conditions and in career structures;
- (f) a new strategy for the redistribution of labour following the introduction of new technologies and, at the same time, the implementation of vocational training and retraining courses;
- (g) special social measures for industrial sectors in crisis;
- (h) the use of manpower policy in such a way as to ensure that a high rate of inflation does not force the various countries to introduce economic restraint policies;

B - Vocational training and educational reform

- in view of the fundamental changes in industrial and economic structures which have taken place as a result of changes in the demographic situation, in technology and in the energy situation;
- in view of the need to adjust all forms of training and education to this new development in the short and long term;
- since in this field a European policy must be pursued to encourage the coming together of all creative forces, starting with studies to improve information and to promote these ideas;

4. Believes it is necessary to encourage:

- (a) incentives for the development of sandwich courses at Community and national level, as an indispensable way of encouraging the employment of young people and improving the efficiency and suitability of these courses in countries where there is real room for improvement;

- (b) preliminary training courses for unemployed people without specific qualifications with a view to allowing them access to vocational training proper;
- (c) the development of new forms of training and professional courses for migrant workers and their children through pilot experiments and special programmes;
- (d) the solution of the problem of incentives for young people participating in sandwich courses;
- (e) creation of a European policy for the adaptation of training, further training, retraining and advanced training to the present and future requirements of the employment market and employment situation, with particular reference to the implications of telematics;

This policy must be supported by appropriate instruments for the systematic study of developing needs and to provide information on new teaching methods and systems and for the promotion of those methods and systems in a context which will take proper account of human needs;

With this end in view the aims and working procedures of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training must be adjusted and extended; in addition, creative cooperation between educational research centres in Europe must be promoted;

5. Calls on the Commission vigorously to maintain measures to guarantee the mutual recognition within the Community of diplomas, certificates and other qualifications for the various levels of education and of professional diplomas issued by individual Member States under the rules in force in those Member States with a view to encouraging as much as possible the mobility of young people;

C - Financial instruments

6. Stresses that coordinated action by the Community's financial instruments is absolutely essential in order to contribute to reducing structural, social and economic imbalances in the less-favoured regions, and reaffirms that the financial endowment of the ESF should be sufficient to meet the needs of the grave employment situation and the volume of applications received, while taking care that aid is not spread too thinly;
7. In particular, in the framework of the forthcoming reform of the basic regulations governing the European Social Fund, asks:
 - (a) that, in accordance with its previous request in the resolution on the review of the rules on the tasks and operation of the fund, the increased quota for intervention for programmes financed in

priority regions should be further increased;

- (b) that the contribution from the Fund for the creation of jobs for young people be raised to the same level as that for encouraging the recruitment of workers in regions where development has fallen behind or where the predominant economic activity is in decline;
- (c) that sums be set aside and utilized to finance social measures which must accompany the process of restructuring of industrial sectors in crisis;

D - Social security and other social measures

8. Believes that the social policy should no longer simply correct the shortcomings in the operation of the economic system, but should direct social growth and encourage participation and sharing of responsibility
- the main points for concern lie in the need for the restructuring of social security systems and the reform of the financing of social security;

in particular it is necessary:

- to complete the work begun with the last directive on equality of treatment between men and women in social security;
 - to pursue the studies on the economic repercussions of the systems for financing social security from the budgets of each Member State and to take every possible measure to improve the rational operation of the system in order to achieve the greatest economies while safeguarding existing rights;
 - to ensure that in view of the general tendency in the Member countries to reduce social spending, expenditure be directed primarily towards the provision of services for the weaker categories of society in order to ensure in every way possible their integration into normal social life;
9. Invites the Commission to ask the Member States to embark on a housing policy which will give easier access to home ownership, particularly by the less-favoured sectors of society;
10. Invites the Commission:
- (a) to take action on the requests concerning social matters formulated in the resolution on the position of women in the European Community and in the resolution on the economic, professional and social integration of the handicapped;
 - (b) to introduce a uniform system of payment of family allowances on the basis of the country of employment;
 - (c) to draw up a framework report on the problems of second generation migrant workers and to identify and propose practical measures;

11. Stresses the need to speed up the issuing of specific and effective directives within the action programme on safety and health at work; the introduction of safety techniques should involve workers as they are the users of the new technologies, in order to prevent accidents and improve the working environment;
12. Calls for the introduction of the necessary measures to put into practice a joint approach on the internal migration policies of the Member States;
13. Believes that there should be a concerted policy to develop the concept of 'Community citizenship', which would guarantee basic legal and social rights;
14. Asks the Council to present in a form acceptable to all the Member States the proposed directive on illegal migration and illegal employment on which Parliament delivered a favourable opinion some time ago;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.