

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr CARDIA, Mr CAROSSINO, Mr PAPAPIETRO,
Mr BONACCINI, Mr LEONARDI, Mrs BARBARELLA, Mr FANTI,
Mr D'ANGELOSANTE and Mr VITALE

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the reform of the Regulation establishing the
Regional Development Fund with a view to achieving
a more fundamental change in its structure and
operation

The European Parliament,

- whereas persistent recession, inflation and monetary disorder at international, but especially at Community level, are threatening the employment and living conditions of millions of workers and causing a serious increase in the economic, social and regional imbalances in the development of the Member States and condemning the most backward and weakest regions to still further decline,
- having regard to the very negative findings contained in the First Periodic Report on the social and economic situation in the regions of the Community, published recently by the Commission,
- whereas, furthermore, the reform of the Regional Fund Regulation, due to be undertaken by the end of this year, is coinciding with a wide-ranging reassessment of the sectoral policies and of the institutional foundations of the Community, designed not only to deal effectively with the dangers inherent in the current situation, but also to speed up the processes of political and economic integration and unification,
- having regard to the many interesting proposals put forward in Parliament and elsewhere for promoting the creation of new instruments for intervention in the backward regions of the Community (development plan and special fund for the Mediterranean regions, European regional development organization, regional research and development centres, Community institute for economic analysis and so on),
- whereas, in terms of quality and method, an essential prerequisite for an effective Community regional development policy is the coordination in a single programme of all the available measures for a particular region,
- whereas it is both essential and urgent to move from the practice of financing individual projects to that of cofinancing organized regional programmes in collaboration with the authorities and social forces of the regions,
- whereas the practical planning of regional development will only be possible if it is made part of national planning policies in the Member States and such policies are accompanied at Community level by economic analysis, consultation, harmonization, coordination and planning capable of providing guidelines, on the basis of flexible and selective standards, for research and investment as well as production decisions and market dynamics,

1. Calls on the Commission:

- (a) to draw up and submit, in connection with the proposals for the reform of the Regional Development Fund Regulation, measures designed to link and unify all the instruments for analysis, planning, research, finance and promotion relevant to regional development policy, with a view to achieving a change in the structure of the Fund which will direct its use towards the less developed regions, especially those in the Mediterranean countries with similar and interconnected problems;
- (b) to introduce into its own work, methods and instruments for analysis and global planning with multiannual programmes and estimates of investment and expenditure and to recognize the development of the less prosperous regions of the Community as a fundamental objective and a term of reference for the various Community policies, in accordance with the principles contained in the Treaties, by promoting both consultation and the harmonization of the economic policies of the Member States;
- (c) to create as one of the prospective instruments mentioned above a Community Institute for analysis, information and economic planning to provide accurate forecasts of trends in development, with particular reference to the economic development of the backward regions of the Community;

2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.