

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COTTRELL, Mr BATTERSBY, Mr DANKERT,
Mr MAHER, Mr DE KEERSMAEKER, Lord HARMAR-NICHOLLS,
Mr SELIGMAN, Mr PURVIS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on horticulture in the European Community

The European Parliament,

- noting the recent demonstrations in Brussels by horticulturalists concerned about subsidized natural gas permitted to growers in Holland by the Dutch government,
 - recognizing the frustration and anger which led to this demonstration and will lead to others unless effective action is taken by the Commission,
 - recognizing the very real difficulties currently faced by the horticulture industry throughout the Community,
 - noting with concern the increasing number of disputes between Member States involving food and drink products and which concern both protectionism and claims of irregular and illegal subsidies paid by national governments,
 - believing that the frequency of these disputes will increase unless practical measures are taken,
1. Considers that so far as horticulture is concerned the difficulties lie in the lack of a framework for horticulture within the Common Agricultural Policy;
 2. Considers that the accession of Greece has changed the economic balance of horticulture within the Community and that this process will accelerate under enlargement;
 3. Notes that the essential disparities between Northern horticulture, relying principally on energy, and Southern horticulture, which flourishes naturally in a warmer climate, are not being approached as part of a general Community policy;
 4. Urges the Commission, therefore, to commence an immediate study to create the framework of a horticultural policy which will recognize those economic and geographical disparities within the Community which affect the industry;
 5. Urges the Commission to recognize that it is not in the best interests of consumers, Member States or the Community in general to allow horticulture in the North to stagnate and that therefore an effective policy must be developed which will allow the industry to develop and flourish throughout the Community;
 6. Urges the Commission to act firmly and without hesitation in enforcing the principles of free and fair competition and to remove all national aids which distort the market;

7. Urges the Commission to begin urgent discussions with the horticulture industry as to how these problems can be solved within a Community framework and to propose in such a framework that massive intervention will not be the answer and to balance the advantages and disadvantages such as transport costs, involving horticulture in the South against that in the North, which is energy dependent;
8. Urges the Commission to approach this problem before the Community is further enlarged;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.