

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

26 October 1982

DOCUMENT 1-783/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs Heinke Salisch

on behalf of the Socialist Group

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the European social area

PE 81.205

The European Parliament,

- A conscious of the extremely serious employment situation in all Member States of the EEC,
- B whereas today there are more than 11 million registered unemployed and there is a serious risk that the situation will continue to deteriorate so that, if no appropriate policy is implemented, in 1985 one worker in nine will be out of work,
- C whereas the problem of employment is therefore the absolute priority of social policy,
- D noting that the present economic policies of most of the Member States have failed, wreaking havoc with employment and the industrial fabric without having a noticeable impact on such economic problems as energy prices, competition and inflation,
- E whereas a lasting improvement in the employment situation is a matter of priority and this can only be brought about by means of a positive employment strategy in accordance with the full employment objectives of the Treaty of Rome,
1. Welcomes with satisfaction and interest the proposal made during the European Council meeting in Luxembourg in July 1981 to set up a European social area - this constitutes genuine social progress which will redefine and revitalize social policy because it will concentrate on the reduction and reorganization of work and the type of growth;
 2. Accepts this proposal as a new basis for the economic and social policy of the Community which is the ideal and most appropriate framework for implementing this new approach;
 3. Requests the Commission therefore to urge both sides of industry to begin negotiations aimed at reaching tripartite agreements to promote the implementation of this European social area;



4. Considers that if these negotiations are unable to take place or if no agreement can be reached then the Community authorities should draw up directives as an indication of their willingness to begin this process;
5. Calls therefore on the Commission to develop and draw up as quickly as possible a coherent programme with the following objectives:
 - the reduction of working hours with the aim of achieving a 35 hour working week without loss of earnings, in the Community and in the Member States;
 - the introduction of a fifth shift in shift work should be another common objective of the European Community. It will allow better conditions in the most difficult types of work and encourage job creation;
 - the extension of the rights both of trades unions and professional bodies and the reviewing of the rules governing working conditions in undertakings;
 - compulsory consultation with workers at all levels.

The extension of paid annual holiday to five weeks and the granting of retirement pension from the age of sixty should also be examined as means of reducing unemployment.

6. Considers it indispensable to set up a genuine common continuing education policy in accordance with the principles laid down in Article 128 of the Treaty of Rome;
7. Requests that the harmonization of social legislation should be completed, taking into account the interests and individual characteristics of each country and guaranteeing that the most favourable legislation for workers will be applied throughout the Community;

8. Calls on the Commission furthermore to consult the governments of Member States so as to examine at the appropriate level the coordination of the economic recovery measures which are necessary if a lasting improvement in the employment situation is to occur;
9. Calls finally on the Commission to study all the opportunities which will arise from the setting up of this European social area which, by virtue of its spirit and substance, is the vehicle for the aspirations of the workers of Europe;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities and to the governments of the Member States and calls on the Council and the Commission to report back to it before the end of 1983 on their proposals and measures.

