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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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8 MAY 1979

DOCUMENT 169/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr FELLERMAIER, Mr PISANI and Mr LANGE  
on behalf of the Socialist Group

with request for an early vote  
pursuant to Rule 47(5) of the Rules of Procedure

to wind up the debate on oral questions  
Docs. 125/79 and 126/79

on employment policy

02.1

The European Parliament,

at the conclusion of its debate of 9 May 1979 on the oral questions by Mr FELLERMAIER, Mr PISANI and Mr LANGE (Docs. 125/79 and 126/79) on employment policy,

1. Notes that unemployment continues to affect some 6 million people, that the situation is likely to become even worse and that an early return to full employment is unlikely,
2. Draws attention to the ineffectiveness of the policy of concerted action decided on at the Copenhagen and Bremen summits to tackle the problem of underemployment,
3. Demands that the Community be provided with an economic and social policy capable of solving the unemployment problem, responsibility for adopting the necessary measures lying with the Council and the Governments of the Member States,
4. Insists that a significant effort be made to create new jobs and, more particularly, that demand be increased ; that industrial, regional and vocational training policies be developed both at national and Community level ; that jobs be created by developing the service sector, and specifically those services needed to satisfy the basic requirements of the working and retired men and women of our Community (improvement of medical facilities, education, the environment and housing),
5. Considers that investment in each major economic sector is guided by development plans and that an investment notification system should be introduced at both national and Community level and that coherence should be ensured,
6. Feels that the granting of government aid to private enterprise should be conditional upon the creation of jobs and compliance with the procedure outlined above,
7. Stresses that national and Community policies to promote employment form part of the search for a new international economic order and international division of labour, which will in the immediate future enable the developing countries to progress in parallel with the industrialized countries, and at the same time demonstrate the Community's resolve to give the unemployment problem the priority it deserves;

8. Demands that speedier action be taken to reduce the number of working hours, without loss of wages, and that this be done in a manner that is both resolute and flexible ; this can be achieved by
  - (a) progressively shortening the working week to 35 hours,
  - (b) increasing annual leave to 6 weeks,
  - (c) lowering the retirement age to 60,
  - (d) raising the school-leaving age and allowing longer leave for training purposes,
9. Demands that unemployed persons whom society does not guarantee the right to work receive adequate compensation to assure them of a decent standard of living,
10. Demands increased joint action at Community level with respect to employment policy ; to this end
  - (a) requests that a thorough discussion, to be prepared by the Commission and attended by the European institutions, employees and employers, be held each year to review the employment situation and the outcome of policies pursued and to decide on policies for the next year ; expects the Council to bring about an improvement in the Tripartite Conferences along the lines proposed by the Commission,
  - (b) requests that tripartite sectoral working parties be set up to advise the Community institutions on the major industrial and service sectors ; requests the Council in this connection to put into effect the declaration it itself made in Copenhagen in April 1978 and asks the Commission to draw up detailed proposals defining the terms of reference and working methods of these tripartite working parties,
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.