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European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

12 November 1979

DOCUMENT 1-489/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COPPIETERS,
Mr BLANEY and Mrs CASTELLINA

pursuant to Rule 25 of the
Rules of Procedure

on the ~~place~~ of work of the Parliament



The European Parliament,

- noting that the lack of a single seat considerably reduces the effectiveness and prestige of the Parliament, and thus its ability to exercise democratic control over the activities of the Communities,
- concerned about the fact that having the Parliament's activities spread between three cities results in major additional costs at a moment when the Parliament is exerting itself to obtain a cut in unjustified expenditure and increased spending on vital human and social problems,
- noting with regret that the seat of the Parliament has been and is the object of acute competition between city authorities and even between national governments, with both the amour-propre of the nation states and the material and financial gains for the cities concerned taking precedence over the true interests of Europe; and that this situation has even had repercussions within the Parliament itself,
- recalling in particular that work is currently in progress on two new buildings, one in Luxembourg and one in Strasbourg, both intended to house the Parliament, before the directly elected Parliament has even debated the problem of its future place of work,
- distressed to note that as a result of the uncertainty about the permanent seat the staff of the Parliament and of other institutions, and others working in and around the Parliament, have to put up with unbearable working conditions, while their private and family lives are affected by the lack of permanence,
- convinced therefore of the urgent need, for political, financial and social reasons, to establish a single seat for the Parliament, providing it with a home worthy of its task, and members and staff with efficient and agreeable working conditions,
- aware of the decisions taken in the past by the representatives of the governments about the seats of the Institutions and the compensation to be granted to the cities concerned in the event of changes,
- recognizing that the decision on the seat of the Parliament must be seen in the broader context of relations between institutions,
- asserting nevertheless that it is sovereign as regards the choice of its place of work,



1. Instructs the President to request urgently from the Court of Auditors an assessment of the total extra burden on the Community budget resulting from the current on-going 'provisional' situation as compared with a single working place for the Parliament;
2. Decides to establish a working party with the mandate to report back to it within six months on the range of choices available, and if it deems fit then to make a recommendation about a single place of work;
3. Decides to hold at the latest in the second quarter of 1980 an extraordinary session devoted to a full debate on the problem and to a decision on a single place of work.

