

---

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

---

4 October 1978

DOCUMENT 326/78

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and  
Education

on the forthcoming 1978 Tripartite Conference

Rapporteur: Mr W. ALBERS

1.2.1.



The Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education requested authorization on 7 March 1978 to report on the full range of issues raised by the forthcoming Tripartite Conference. On 22 March 1978 it received the necessary authorization from the President of the European Parliament, and on 30 March 1978 it appointed Mr ALBERS rapporteur.

On 23 May 1978 it held a general exchange of views, followed on 24 May 1978 by a discussion based on a questionnaire on this subject.

On 19 June 1978 there was a general exchange of views, and discussion of an interim report. This interim report was adopted by the committee at the meeting of 19 June, and on 7 July 1978 by Parliament in plenary sitting<sup>1</sup>.

Further discussion was held on the basis of the questionnaire on 4 July and 22 September 1978.

On 26 September 1978 the attached motion for a resolution on the forthcoming 1978 Tripartite Conference was discussed and adopted unanimously. The explanatory statement will be given orally by the rapporteur.

Present : Mr van der Gun, chairman; Mrs Dunwoody, vice-chairman; Mr Pistillo, vice-chairman; Mr Albers, rapporteur; Mr Dinesen, Mr Hansen (deputizing for Mr Dondelinger), Mrs Kellett-Bowman, Mr Lezzi, Lord Murray of Gravesend, Mr Ney (deputizing for Mr Santer) and Mr Vandewiele.

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 182, 31.7.1978, p. 47, and Report of Proceedings, No. 232, July 1978.



The Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution :

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the forthcoming 1978 Tripartite Conference

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the reports already submitted on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education on issues raised by the Tripartite Conference by Mr GLINNE (Doc. 160/76) and Mr SANTER (Doc. 143/77/rev. and Doc. 345/77),
  - having regard to the interim report by Mr ALBERS (Doc. 179/78),
  - having regard to the report by the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education (Doc. 326/78),
1. Notes with increasing concern that once again this year the Commission of the European Communities has not seen fit to notify the European Parliament in good time of its proposals concerning the forthcoming Tripartite Conference to be held in November 1978 ;
  2. Draws particular attention to the declaration by the Heads of State or Government of the European Community - made at the Paris Summit in October 1972 and stressed at all subsequent summits since that date - that social progress should not simply be an adjunct to economic growth but should at the same time be a guiding principle of our action ;
  3. Is therefore surprised that, particularly in view of the imminent direct elections to the European Parliament, neither the Council nor the Commission seems prepared to allow Parliament to carry out its democratic responsibilities in connection with the Tripartite Conference ;
  4. Fears that the mere repetition of banalities on this subject, particularly at the last Tripartite Conference scarcely does justice to the human and political problems involved ;
  5. Points out in this connection that the current analyses of the employment market show a disturbing tendency to treat workers as objects, and not to take their rights as individuals into sufficient account, as is borne out by the customary use by officialdom of such euphemisms as 'substitution' and 'the lower qualifications of unemployed persons registered at employment offices' ;

6. Draws particular attention once again to the comments and requests put forward by Parliament in 1976 and 1977 and notes that at the time of drawing up the 1978 report the concern expressed in these earlier reports has become even more well-founded, particularly as regards the problem groups, such as young people and women ;
7. Considers, in view of the fact that the Commission's definitive proposals for stimulating investment and planning measures to create new jobs are not available, that the debate will have to be intensified, and conclusions reached in respect of :
  - shorter weekly working hours
  - restriction of overtime and shiftwork
  - lowering of retirement age
  - longer annual leave
  - raising of the school leaving age and extended training
  - 'family' leave or release from employment for further training
  - extension of part-time work
  - promotion of the tertiary sector.
8. Points out that ideas about social, psychological and financial security will have to be radically revised as working habits and systems change ;
9. Asks for the European Parliament to be provided with immediate information on the current contacts between the national employment departments and the Commission on the following topics :
  - (a) Improvement of the employment market
    - experience with job creation schemes
    - experience with short-time work
    - experience with measures to promote vocational training, further training, conversion and induction courses
    - experience with financial aid to undertakings for the placing of trainees and difficult placements
  - (b) Measures to reduce the discrepancy between supply and demand on the employment market
    - success rate of employment agencies in filling vacant positions, adaptability of workers and undertakings in filling vacant positions

- (c) Employment and advisory services
    - Efficiency of systems and procedures
    - employment policy measures for 'problem' groups
    - mass redundancies
    - secondment (loan of staff)
      - and action to combat unlicensed employment agencies
    - vocational rehabilitation of the handicapped
    - employment counselling and arranging places on training courses
      - (in particular problems of transition from the educational system to employment)
    - statistical survey methods
    - employment market observation and reports
    - employment and careers research
      - aid to the unemployed and the effects of unemployment (experience of the psychological and social effects of unemployment and measures to counteract such effects);
10. Is seriously concerned at the growing tendency to protectionism in certain sectors of the economy, also referred to in the GLINNE report, and points out that the 'compartmentalization' of the markets only protects industries which are uneconomic in the long term and therefore cannot be the right way to safeguard employment ; on the contrary, as a result of redistribution through the tax system, it not only works to the detriment of the whole population but also places the more productive industries in jeopardy ;
  11. Takes the view that the increased involvement of the social partners is of the utmost importance to the continued development of social and economic policy in the Community ;
  12. Calls on the Commission to draw up proposals for improving the structure of the consultative machinery between the Council, the Commission and the European workers' and employers' organizations ;
  13. Considers it desirable to extend the number of European joint committees of employers and workers to cover, at least, all the main sectors in the European Community ;
  14. Notes that there has still been too little reaction to the proposal made by the trade union movement at the very first Tripartite Conference, for the establishment of sectoral joint committees ;
  15. Takes the view that, in the negotiations on the restructuring of industrial sectors, the Commission should make the establishment of joint committees a condition for the granting of financial support ;
  16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, to the social partners and to the Governments of the Member States.

