

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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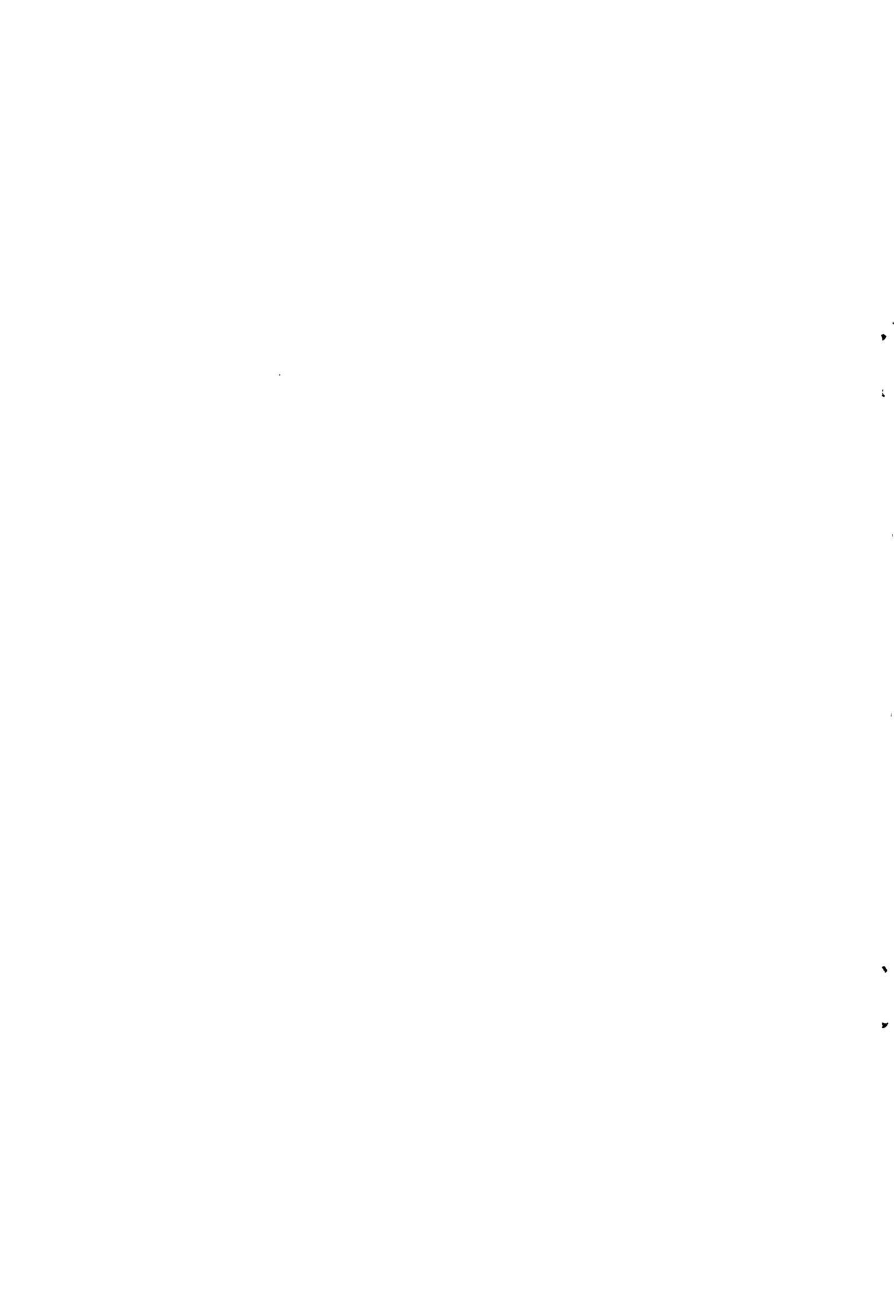
DOCUMENT 511/76

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr CARO and Mr Emile MULLER

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

On regional planning at European level, polycentric distribution of the institutions and modern means of transport and communication



The European Parliament,

- noting that, in several Member States, excessive administrative and political concentration - a legacy of the 19th century - has increased urban and industrial concentration in the capital and other major cities at the expense of other towns and regions, thus creating imbalances detrimental to the country as a whole,
 - considering that the fight against this hyper-concentration has already started in certain countries through the relocation in certain development areas of some higher decision-making bodies and certain tertiary activities, which had hitherto been concentrated in the capital or other major cities,
1. Stresses that, in a Europe which is in the process of unification, the pernicious effects of over-concentration should be avoided, so that structures which appear outmoded today are not re-created on a European scale;
 2. Considers that the tendency towards over-concentration in the European Community must be resisted and that it must therefore create its own political and administrative structure on a polycentric basis;
 3. Recognizes, furthermore, that a functional and judicious geographical distribution of its institutions will be a more effective way of giving concrete expression to the reality of Europe and make it easier to bring the idea of Europe home to its peoples;
 4. Accepts that the present siting of the Community institutions in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg, although resulting from a de facto situation, at least has the merit of meeting this need;
 5. Is convinced that improvements currently being made to existing transport and communication networks, followed, at a later stage, by the introduction of new transport and communication techniques, will enable this polycentric structure of the European institutions and of Europe itself to be maintained and developed;
 6. Considers it desirable, therefore, that the Commission should examine and support transport and communication projects, such as the Europole Project, which make use of advanced techniques;
 7. Is of the opinion that such an approach to the problem of the siting of the European institutions could be a means of reducing the dangers and social and human costs that excessive concentration of the European institutions would inevitably entail.

8. Considers that concentrating the institutions in one place would solve none of the existing problems but would, rather, detract from the impact of the European Parliament on the people and jeopardize its independence;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities and, for information, to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

