
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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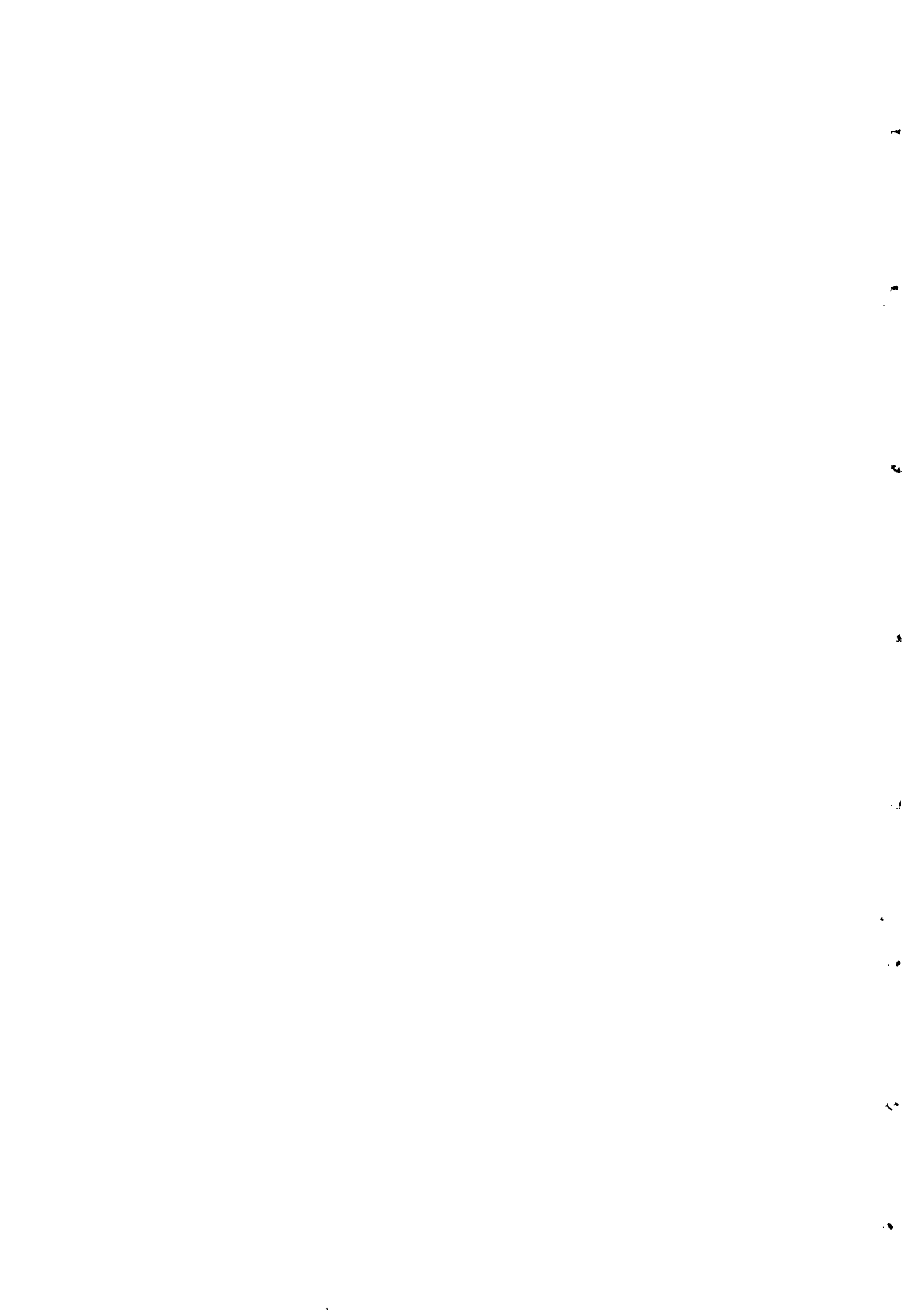
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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION . . . /

tabled by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

concerning a Community Social Security System /



The European Parliament,

- seeking to define precisely the policy implications of the Community's commitment to the ultimate objective of 'European Union' and recognizing the need to adopt new approaches to economic and monetary union as an essential preliminary stage,
- aware of the need to put statutory social security benefits and contributions throughout the Community on a comparable basis as an indispensable preparation for economic and monetary union,
- deploring the persistence of acute poverty within the Community, which still afflicts substantial numbers of its citizens,
- admitting the need to examine new methods of supporting the spending power of low-income families, particularly in agriculture,
- judging that a Community scheme for the support of personal incomes is vital as a counterpart of the investment policies and development projects aimed at assisting the Community's less prosperous regions,
- recognizing that the cost of living of single people and of families may vary widely according to the number of dependants and the numbers of breadwinners in each household; and that intervention to secure minimum rates of wages, or of earnings for the self-employed, cannot take account of all the factors contributing to the persistence of poverty,
- observing that statutory deductions and supplements affecting earnings may be significant factors governing the level of net spending power and that variations in the rates applicable in different parts of the Community between different categories of workers or between the sexes may give rise to unacceptable distortions of competition,
- noting the weakening of the incentive to work which follows inevitably from the adoption of systems of income support which concentrate benefits only on the lowest paid or on individuals who are unemployed or sick, leaving them with little advantage in returning to work or improving their earnings,
- recognizing the need for an integrated and easily comprehensible European social security system throughout the Member States, to take account of community migrant movements and the existing complicated pattern of reciprocal social security arrangements between individual Member States,
- stressing the desirability of making citizenship of the Community a direct

commitment, and a living relationship for every individual, bringing tangible personal benefits and also requiring the acceptance of specific responsibilities in the spirit of Article 117 of the Rome Treaty,

- emphasizing that the establishment of an integrated basic personal taxation and social security system for the Community as a whole in no way limits the scope of national, local or voluntary schemes,

1. Considers that preparations should now be made to amalgamate the basic national schemes of income support and social security of Member States to form a rational, fair and comprehensive Community system;

2. Calls upon the Commission : -

(A) To publish a full analysis of the effect on the net spending power of individuals in each Member State over a broad range of incomes and with different family commitments (converted to a comparable basis at realistic rates of exchange, having regard to actual living costs) of all the following factors :-

(i) personal taxation and the provisions for social security, taking account of employers' as well as personal contributions, and the levels of direct benefits in terms of cash;

(ii) the value to individuals in different categories of the negative benefits conferred by means of the concessions and allowances included in the systems of personal taxation;

(iii) an estimate of the value in personal terms of indirect cash benefits, such as food and housing subsidies, and of the social services which are received as benefits in kind, such as public education and services for health;

(B) To make recommendations for changes in rates of personal benefits which would be the most effective in the short run in ending poverty throughout the Community and in achieving a more even level of net spending power in relation to comparable earnings and personal responsibilities;

(C) To make an analysis of the practicable methods of achieving an amalgamation of the various systems of income support and social security of Member States (with particular reference to the implications for economic and monetary union), including the establishment of an integrated Community Social Security Fund responsible for the payment of indexed benefits;

(D) To study the measures necessary to prepare for the introduction of an integrated Community tax-credit system, bearing in mind

the necessity to protect incentives to work while providing adequately for social needs; to achieve the most useful savings in administration; and to preserve the transparency of the direct relationships of obligation and entitlement between each individual citizen and the united European Community as a whole;

3. Requests the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment to maintain contact with the Commission in the preparation of these reports;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission of the European Communities.

