

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1973-1974

11 March 1974

DOCUMENT 403/73

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (1)

on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport

with request for consideration by urgent procedure pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on ~~Community~~ regional policy

(1) Adopted unanimously on 6 March 1974.

The following were present : Mr James Hill, chairman ; Mr Seefeld, vice-chairman ; Mr Delmotte, rapporteur; Mr Herbert, Mr Kavanagh, Mr Mc Donald, Lord Mansfield, Mr Noè, Mr Nyborg, Mr Pounder.

The European Parliament,

- deploring the fact that the decision on the creation of a Regional Development Fund was not adopted by the Council before the end of 1973 and has been repeatedly postponed,
 - considering that in this area the Council has failed to meet the obligations to which it committed itself on 19 December 1972 and those placed on it by the Paris Summit Conference and Confirmed by the Copenhagen Summit Conference,
 - considering that this delay is seriously jeopardizing the implementation of the second phase of economic and monetary union;
 - having regard to the Council's answer of 13 February 1974 to Oral Question No. 194/73 with debate¹ put by the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport,
1. Considers that the Council's answer is completely inadequate;
 2. Invites the Council, once again, to state the precise deadlines which it proposes to set for the adoption of the decisions on the Regional Development Fund;
 3. Notes with satisfaction that the personal statements by the President of the Council on the need for geographical concentration of the aid are in line with the unanimous opinion of the European Parliament, which has already asked² for the regions given aid to be classified according to the relative seriousness of the imbalances at Community level, to show the priority regions on which the funds available should be concentrated;
 4. Also notes the Commission's intention to alter its standpoint by taking account of the need to concentrate aid on the most underprivileged regions;
 5. Is of the opinion, in the present situation, that the Regional Development Fund will merely be a means of overcoming the serious problems of development and re-development in certain regions of Europe in a spirit of solidarity, to assist in the transition to the second stage of economic and monetary union;
 6. Considers, therefore, that this Fund, which is a simple instrument of limited geographical scope, must not be confused with a comprehensive common regional policy, which does not yet exist and which would embrace the whole territory of the Community;

¹ Debates of the European Parliament of 13.2.1974, No. 171, p. 110

² Resolution of 13 December 1973 on the list of regions and zones eligible for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund. (OJ No. C 2, 9.1.1974, p. 43.)

7. Stresses that, although it therefore disapproves of geographical dispersion of the aid, it is, on the contrary, in favour of assistance that is not limited on a sectorial basis merely to infrastructures directly connected with economic development¹ and again asks that assistance from the Fund should take account of the social and human factors of regional development;
8. Recalls that it has already asked for consultation of the responsible representatives of the regions to be made obligatory when they are affected by a development programme²;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and, for information, to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

¹Resolution on the European Regional Development Fund of 15 November 1973, OJ No. C 108, 10.12.1973, p. 51.

²Resolution on the Committee for Regional Policy of 15 November 1973, OJ No. C 108, 10.12.1973, p. 54.