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Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (0-7/78)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the
Rules of Procedure

by Mr BERTRAND, Mr MÜLLER-HERMANN, Mr SCHYNS,
Mr WAWRZIK, Mr NOTENBOOM, Mr MARTINELLI,
Mr DESCHAMPS, Mr RIPAMONTI and Mr NOE'

on behalf of the Christina-Democratic Group

(Group of the European People's Party)
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Binding code of conduct for multinational
undertakings

On 19 April 1977⁽¹⁾ the European Parliament adopted
a resolution calling for the establishment of
binding legal norms to ensure better control of the
conduct of multinational firms in certain branches
of activity.

The Christian-Democratic Group, which fully
supported this resolution, notes that the multi-
nationals play an important role in a world of grow-
ing interdependence in the Community in helping to
solve the growing problems of technological develop-
ment and unemployment, since the activities of
international undertakings have beneficial effects

on productivity, technology and management methods.

The Christian-Democratic Group also feels that binding norms must be drawn up in stages to bring the multinationals under democratic control.

The Christian-Democratic Group would therefore like to be supplied with oral and written information from the Commission so that it can pursue its parliamentary work in this area more effectively.

1. What rules already exist in the Member States for controlling the multinationals and to what extent have they been harmonized?
2. What Community directives and regulations have been put into effect and what results have they given?
3. What proposals for directives and regulations have not yet been decided by the Council?
4. What results have the Member States obtained to date with the application of the OECD's voluntary code of conduct and what results have been obtained worldwide?
5. To what extent have steps already been taken to start the negotiations requested in the European Parliament's resolution in order to arrive at one or more legally binding international agreements?
6. Has the Commission raised the problem of the multinationals with the governments of the other industrial States with a view to establishing international rules going further than the OECD's voluntary code?
7. If the Commission is unable to answer these questions orally, is it prepared to submit to Parliament, within two months, a document setting out the present position on these issues?