

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VIE

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on a European Year of the Family

PE 78.076

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

- whereas the fall in the marriage and birth rate is reaching alarming proportions in most Community countries,
 - whereas this phenomenon not only could lead in the short term to a substantial weakening of the European Community, or indeed its disappearance as a partner of the world's major powers, but is also the sign of a crisis of civilization,
 - whereas the Treaties provide sufficient evidence of the priority they attach to human rights and freedom in the construction of Europe,
 - whereas the family - whatever form it may have taken in the past or may take in the future - is still the most favourable environment for inculcating the notions of freedom and responsibility and hence for the education of men and women,
 - whereas, although it is the responsibility of the Member States alone to legislate in this field, in the light of national circumstances and requirements, it is nevertheless true that the Community countries as a whole have a common cultural heritage as regards the family which is strong enough to be regarded as one of the most important factors in the construction of a united Europe,
1. Calls on the Commission to propose that the governments of the Member States organize a European Year of the Family within the next three years;
 2. The Year of the Family will be devoted to a detailed study of family problems and the role of the family within an overall economic and social policy in the various Community countries, involving all the political, philosophical, cultural, religious and social authorities;
 3. When this work is completed, a report will be made to Parliament on the conclusions which have been drawn and on priority guidelines which could be proposed to facilitate the construction of a European social area, incorporating the family as a key element;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities.