

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1981 - 1982

---

12 June 1981

DOCUMENT 1-286/81

### MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COLLA, Mr VERNIMMEN, Mrs GREDAL,  
Mr FICH, Mrs VIEHOFF, Mrs CASTLE, Mr ENRIGHT,  
Mrs VAN DEN HEUVEL, Mr WOLTJER, Mr MUNTINGH,  
Mr JACQUET, Mr VAN MIERT, Mr GEORGIADIS, Mr ABENS,  
Mr PULETTI, Mr GALLAGHER, Mr SEEFELD, Mr BOYES,  
Mr ORLANDI, Mr FOTILAS, Mr ALBERS and Mr GLINNE  
on behalf of the Socialist Group

Pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the use of languages in the European Parliament

### The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 217 of the EEC Treaty,
  - having regard to Article 1 of Council Regulation No. 1 of 15 April 1958<sup>1</sup>, as amended by the Treaty of Accession of 1972<sup>2</sup>, as amended by the Treaty of Accession of 1979<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to Rule 61 of the Rules of Procedure,
  - whereas respect for the cultural diversity in the European Community calls for absolutely equal value to be placed on all these cultures,
  - whereas restriction of the number of languages in the European Parliament would detract from its democratic character,
  - whereas a restriction on or unequal treatment of any of the languages implies a restriction of the democratic electoral rights of the people since citizens must be able to elect their representatives solely on the basis of political criteria and optimum representation of their interests without having to take into account additional linguistic criteria,
  - whereas all members of Parliament must be treated equally as regards their active and passive use of languages and whereas, therefore, no additional requirements should be placed on any of them, in particular during technical discussions,
  - whereas the creation of 'bureaucratic elites' by the European Parliament or Parliamentary delegations must be avoided,
  - whereas Parliament's budget appropriations must be used rationally and responsible savings made, without this leading, however, to language discrimination,
  - whereas savings may be possible as a result of the technological progress in computer translation,
  - having regard to the discussion in the Legal Affairs Committee, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Budgetary Control on Parliament's budget, the savings to be made and the prevention of all wastage,
  - and having regard to the report of the working party of the Bureau of Parliament on Parliamentary delegations,
1. Reconfirms unequivocally that the official languages and working languages of the Community Institutions are Danish, German, English, French, Greek, Italian and Dutch;
  2. Reconfirms the principle of absolute equality in the active and passive

<sup>1</sup>OJ No. 17 6.10.1958 page 385/58

<sup>2</sup>OJ No. L 73 27.3.1972 page 14

<sup>3</sup>OJ No. L 291 19.11.1979 page 113

use of Community languages in particular for all documents and papers, for all parliamentary meetings and for Parliamentary delegations;

3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Bureau of Parliament.