

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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25 April 1979  
ORAL QUESTION (0-6/79)

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with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Mr FELLERMAIER, on behalf of the Socialist Group  
to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: Community employment policy

1. At its meeting of 7 and 8 April 1978 in Copenhagen, the European Council stated that it was essential for the Community to achieve an annual growth rate of 4.5% by the middle of 1979. It called for a common strategy to be developed to reverse the unsatisfactory trend in the Community. In Bremen the European Council decided on a common approach by means of complementary measures in order to achieve a considerably higher rate of economic growth and thus reduce the level of unemployment.

However, according to the Commission's latest estimates the growth rate in the Community in 1978 amounted to only 2.8% and a rate of 3.4% is forecast for 1979.

How does the Council explain this discrepancy between the 1978 objectives and the present economic facts or forecasts? Can it explain why this common approach has clearly been unsuccessful, since unemployment has increased still further

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since the beginning of 1979? What does it intend to do once and for all to combat unemployment in the Community effectively? Are not new measures to stimulate the economy and more effective action specifically related to employment and labour market policy urgently required as part of a determined effort to combat the continuing unemployment problem?

2. In his conclusions to the Tripartite Conference of June 1977 the President-in-Office of the Council called for comparative and quantitative studies on a number of matters which could serve as a basis for Community action. These matters included the implications of work sharing and the role of the tertiary sector, including the public sector, in job creation.

What is the outcome of these studies? What practical measures have so far resulted from them?