

# European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## Working Documents

1978 - 1979

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28 June 1978

DOCUMENT 178/78

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr PISONI, Mr ZAGARI, Mr BERSANI and Mr FIORET

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on/~~the~~ possible adoption of Esperanto as the working language of the European  
Community

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the constant increase in relations at personal, cultural, political and commercial level and the implications of the international proliferation of the means of mass communications;
  - having regard to the fact that the implications are all the more far-reaching for the European Community where a high degree of commercial interdependence is accompanied by a process of economic integration consolidated by the progressive implementation of Community policies;
  - having regard to the fact that elections to the European Parliament by universal suffrage will be a contributory factor in transferring to Community level the problem of mass participation in the decision-making process which is currently confined to national level;
  - having regard to the fact that the above considerations highlight the need for a functional and practical linguistic instrument to solve the problems arising from the coexistence of several Community working languages and further the process of integration;
  - having regard in particular to the difficulties caused to the functioning of the Community Institutions through having to resort to complex simultaneous interpretation and translation services;
  - having regard to the fact that enlargement of the Community will increase the number of official languages, further aggravating the above-mentioned phenomena, entailing more cumbersome procedures and increasing the relative costs of implementation;
  - having regard to the fact that a different approach to the language problem could reveal the advisability of adopting an easily learnt language with a simple grammatical structure;
  - having regard to the fact that such a language should not be chosen in a discriminatory fashion or on the basis of personal relations or relations between the States;
  - having regard to the fact that Esperanto, already officially taught in certain countries of the Community and used by an increasing number of linguistic and literary associations, meets the above requirements by being the result of a rational synthesis of the most widely spoken European languages;
1. Invites the Commission of the European Communities:
    - (a) to carry out detailed surveys and comparative studies in order to establish whether, on the basis of the above-mentioned requirements, Esperanto could be effectively adopted as the working language of the European Community;
    - (b) to carry out, with the aid of Esperanto associations, practical experiments in simultaneous interpretation and translation as has already been done successfully during international meetings and at other international events;
    - (c) lastly, to submit a report on the results of the studies and experiments carried out;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.