
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983 - 1984

9 September 1983

DOCUMENT 1-662/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr KIRK, Mr HUTTON, Lady ELLES, Mr BEAZLEY,
Mr PATTERSON, Mr FORTH, Mr BATTERSBY, Mr PEARCE,
Mr SHERLOCK, Mr PROVAN, Mr WELSH, Mr PROUT,
Mr MOORHOUSE, Mrs Elaine KELLETT-BOWMAN, Mr HARRIS,
Mr SPENCER, Sir Fred WARNER, Mr John D. TAYLOR,
Mr PURVIS, Mr Robert JACKSON and Mr MORELAND

with request for topical and urgent debate

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on the growing trend towards impeding free trade
between Member States through the introduction of
national standards

PE 86.320
Or.Da.

The European Parliament,

- A. concerned to ensure the functioning of the common market in the interests of free trade between the Member States,
- B. alarmed at the growing trend towards impeding free trade between the Member States through the introduction of national standards,
- C. referring to Articles 30 - 36 of the EEC Treaty and the Court of Justice's clear interpretation thereof,
- D. concerned at the French Government's decision to implement a standards programme setting a series of standards for industrial products,
 - 1. Notes that French standards for cabinet freezers (nfd 38-320), which require prior approval, are in breach of the Treaty;
 - 2. Calls on the French Government to comply with the Commission's demand of July 1983 that it rescind all measures which aim in practice at restricting imports of, among other things, cabinet freezers from other Member States;
 - 3. Urges the French Government to continue to allow imports of cabinet freezers and other items of household equipment from other Member States provided they comply with the provisions contained in EC directives and, in this connection, to ensure that the introduction of special standards for other items of household equipment (nfc 73-411) does not stand in the way of free access to the French market for such items when they originate in other Member States;
 - 4. Requests the Commission to ensure that the above guidelines are respected;
 - 5. Instructs the Commission, as guardian of the Treaty, to bring all the above matters before the Court of Justice as a matter of urgency if the French Government does not immediately alter the rules to bring them into line with the Treaty and the Community's other legal provisions;
 - 6. Requests the Commission to open negotiations with the French Government to ensure that the French programme of standards for industrial products does not lead to an endless series of obstacles to trade which may fundamentally impede free trade and disrupt trade between France and the other Member States;
 - 7. Recommends the Commission to establish the required resources of staff to undertake an overall survey of existing national standards with the aim of safeguarding free trade and ensuring that Community undertakings are not subjected to cumbrous bureaucratic stipulations which can contribute to holding up or directly impede free trade;
 - 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the French Government.