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ORAL QUESTION (O-148/79)

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the
Rules of Procedure

by Mr GLINNE, Mr SARRE, Mr SALISCH, Mr DELORS,
Mr BOYES, Mr CABORN, Mr MOREAU, Mr SCHWARTZENBERG,
Mr WALTER, Mr DIDO', Mr PETERS, Mr OEHLER,
Mrs ROUDY, Mrs DESMOND, Mr COLLA, Mr von der VRING
and Mrs LIZIN on behalf of the Socialist Group
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Employment situation in the Community

In view of the extremely serious situation
concerning employment, and the fact that there
are over six million unemployed in the Community
and the prospects for the future are even more
bleak, it is important to establish which measures
might be taken by the Commission.

Does the Commission not feel that a lasting
improvement of the employment situation presupposes
a recovery of demand, particularly in the fields
of infrastructure and public services - in other
words, a new type of sustained, planned and
socially-oriented growth?

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What measures is the Commission contemplating with a view to promoting recovery measures and public investment in the Member States?

Given that the control of concentrations and dominant positions, and of multinational companies, is also essential for the planning of full employment, does the Commission not feel that investment should be made subject to the right of information and control by each Member State and its workers?

What action does it intend to take for the implementation of a structural policy, which would go further than short-term measures, to help threatened industries and would be aimed at creating the activities necessary for the development of all European regions?

Does it intend to propose and promote the implementation of employment programmes, particularly, to create jobs for young people and women?

Does the Commission intend to promote an employment policy based, in particular, on the reduction of the time spent at work, both over the year - with the introduction of longer holidays - and during the week - with the progressive reduction of the working week to 35 hours?

By the same token, does it not consider that bringing forward the age of retirement and introducing an additional team for shift and continuous work, are necessary elements in a social policy for the maintenance and creation of jobs?

What measures does it intend to promote in such fields as the improvement of working conditions, the development of trade-union rights, free bargaining between unions and management, and the extension of further education?